Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Burial site earmarked for approval despite opposition

CEMETERY SET TO BE GIVEN NOD

Report by Dayna Farrington

A HUGE new cemetery was this week expected to be given the go-ahead in spite of public opposition to the plans.

The new burial space would be created on a site popular with dog walkers opposite the existing Powke Lane Crematorium in Rowley Regis.

It was recommended for approval ahead of a meeting yesterday (Wednesday) – despite an 800-name petition against it.

The 3.9-acre site, next to Powke Lane Industrial Estate, is the size of nearly four football pitches.

The land has been identified to provide burial space and is just a short distance from the Powke Lane crematorium, which recently had a £1.3 million revamp.

Anger

A new car park would also be created to serve the cemetery. However the land, which is currently open green space, is popular with dog walkers and the plans have sparked anger.

The council had received 23 letters of objection and two petitions containing more than 800 signatures – stating the area is a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC), concerns about highways safety, a lack of public consultation, opening hours, and that the site would become an area for youths to congregate.

Russell Bibb, who lives on Powke Lane, said: "The area they are proposing to develop has been a nature reserve for many years. I feel that we will lose this urban oasis of wildlife. Not only is it also used by many families with young children and I just feel that there are better sites to explore."

But Rowley Regis Councillor Chris Tranter said: "We need the room to bury people, it is as simple as that."

Plea after men stabbed

POLICE are investigating after two men were stabbed in Rowley Regis at the weekend.

Police were called to High Street, where the men had been attacked. They were taken to hospital shortly after the incident at 1.30am on Sunday. Officers are looking at CCTV and anyone with information is urged to call 101.

HUNDREDS ENJOY FUN DAY AT FIRE STATION

Zain Veres-Davies from Stetchford

Front, station Commander Chris Wood

Ian Baker from the Young Firefighters Association with Jonah Wilkinson-Jones and Max Beckerleg

HUNDREDS enjoyed a family fun day at Haden Cross Community Fire Station.

Visitors were treated to entertainment and live rescue demonstrations while also picking up advice on safety, crime prevention and healthy living as part of Sandwell's Safer 6 campaign.

Youngsters had the chance to sit in a fire appliance, look inside an ambulance and meet a police officer. For older children there was a chance to explore the Youth Bus, which is out and about across Sandwell's six towns over the coming weeks.

Sandwell Council is leading the Safer 6 campaign this year, with support from Sandwell Police, West Midlands Fire Service, schools, partner agencies and community and voluntary groups including Litterwatch, Sandwell Crime Prevention Panel and Agewell.

Each of Sandwell's six towns has a focus week. The focus turns to Tipton on Monday. Tipton's week includes a Safer 6 information roadshow on Monday from 10am-noon at Asda Great Bridge, Brickhouse Lane.

See what is already planned for each of Sandwell's six towns at www.sandwell.gov.uk/safer6 and follow the campaign on Twitter using the #Safer6 hashtag.

'Selfish' father gets life sentence for daughter's murder

A 'SELFISH' father who stabbed his defenceless daughter to death will spend at least 27 years behind bars for the 'brutal and cowardly' murder.

William Billingham shook his head and stared at the floor as he was jailed for life after plunging a 20cm kitchen knife into young Mylee Billingham's chest.

Billingham

The murderer, who will be 82 before he can be considered for release, killed the eight-year-old in his Valley View home in Brownhills in a 'revenge' act against ex-partner Tracey Taundry.

Mylee

Mylee's mother Ms Taundry, aged 34, who has another two children with Billingham, paid tribute to her beautiful daughter. She said Billingham's 'most selfish and despicable actions' had left her heartbroken.

In a statement read to Birmingham Crown Court, she said: "How can I ever explain how the murder of my beautiful daughter, has affected me, her sisters and my immediate family. Mylee was brutally taken from us by a man who was supposed to care for and protect her."

Jurors unanimously convicted Billingham, who took a puff of his inhaler after hearing the impact of his callous offending. The 55-year-old, who had previous convictions for theft and assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and two cautions for common assault, slashed his wrists with razor blades while in custody.

DEMAND

Parents in call for new school car park

FED-UP parents are demanding a new car park after complaining they have nowhere to pick up pupils near a Tipton school.

More than 200 people have asked council bosses to introduce a new car park on land near Joseph Turner Primary School, on Powis Avenue, which serves 458 students aged three to 11.

INSIDE

Muddy marvels are in the pink

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CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
Tel: 01902 319573
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Stuart Whitehead
Tel: 01902 319177
E-mail: stuart.whitehead@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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West name removed from cell ads

Fred West stayed in the cells

POLICE chiefs have been criticised for advertising a Halloween event in serial killer Fred West's old prison cell.

The ghost hunting event – which costs £75 a person – will take place at the Steelhouse Lane lock-up in Birmingham, which is now a museum.

Helped by his wife Rose, West raped, tortured and killed at least 12 people between 1967 and 1987. He was held at the Steelhouse Lane jail before being transferred to the city's Winson Green Prison where he hanged himself in 1995. His wife Rose is serving a life sentence in Low Newton Prison for her part in 10 of the murders, including that of her own 16-year-old daughter Heather.

The West Midlands Police advert said: "This event provides a unique opportunity to spend an entire night on a ghost hunting mission within the Victorian lock-up in Birmingham City Centre on Halloween. These cells were occupied by none other than the original Peaky Blinders, Fred West and many more. Be there if you dare!"

But the event was slammed on Facebook and branded 'highly insensitive' and accused of 'glorifying killers' – prompting police to remove West's name from the adverts. West Midlands Police said the event was being run by an outside organisation to raise money for modern slavery charity Hope for Justice. A spokesperson added: "On reflection, the organiser of the event has agreed that using his name was insensitive and has therefore removed it from any advertising of this event."

The all-night experience, for over-18s only, starts at 7.30pm and includes tales about the cell's most notorious criminals. Visitors will sleep in 12ft by 12ft cells and are told to bring their own sleeping bags and pillows.

Assaults on ambulance staff highest in country

TWO out of every five paramedics covering the Midlands have been attacked in the last year, according to a shock new report.

Staff at West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) posted the highest figure of any trust in the country when asked if they had experienced physical violence from patients, relatives or the public in last 12 months.

And an NHS reviews of ambulance trusts by Lord Carter of Coles said the actual percentage of assaults could be far higher, as assaults against staff are no longer recorded nationally since NHS Protect was abolished.

The service said there had been 171 attacks on staff since April. There were 410 in total in 2017/18.

The review, which praised WMAS for its efficiency, said 40 per cent of its staff had come under attack in the last year. Of the other nine trusts, South West Ambulance Service Trust recorded the lowest rate of assaults, with 28 per cent of staff saying they had been attacked.

Variation

The report says: "Violent attacks against NHS staff have not been recorded nationally since the abolition of NHS Protect, which leaves the voluntary NHS Staff Survey and local reporting mechanisms as the only indicators. This means that actual percentages may be much higher. We analysed the levels of physical violence that staff experienced and found considerable variation between trusts."

WMAS covers Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Coventry, Birmingham and Black Country. Spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "The trust works hard to encourage staff to report violence. The chief executive has been clear that he will push for prosecution against anyone who attacks staff who are doing their best to help the public."

First Duncan Edwards Day kicks off

Crowds gather in Dudley town centre for Duncan Edwards Day on Monday

HUNDREDS of people attended a ceremony in Dudley to mark the first ever Duncan Edwards Day.

They gathered by the Manchester United and England icon's statue in the town centre on what would have been his 82nd birthday.

Edwards died aged 21 from injuries sustained in the Munich air disaster in 1958. Relatives of the football legend were at Monday's event.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Taylor joined members of the Edwards family as they laid a wreath in remembrance at the foot of Duncan's statue. Organisers estimated at least 300 people were there.

Dusky Edwards, aged 49, the foorballer's second cousin and a trustee of the Duncan Edwards Foundation, said: "It really warms me, how this young man touched so many lives. Duncan would have loved what we are doing with the community."

Organiser Rose Cook-Monk, founder of the Duncan Edwards Foundation, said: "It has been amazing."

Football freestyler Ewan Baggot performed tricks, a choir from Duncan's old school Priory Primary sang and there was humour from Marlene 'Black Country Wench' Watson. Former Wolves star Mel Eves was also in attendance.

The Duncan Edwards Foundation charity office, in Castle Street, opened up its archives to the public and a fundraising variety night was held at the Station Hotel.

Jail for man with axe who caused alarm outside bar

A DRUNK man with an axe, who caused alarm outside a Black Country bar in the early hours of the morning, has been jailed for 18 months. Door staff from MJs Coffee Lounge and Bar in Bridge Street, Wednesbury called police amid concern that a man was armed with a gun at 2.30am on August 18, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Officers arrived to find a group of people outside the premises claiming that Liam Ford had a firearm, explained Mr Peter Grice, prosecuting.

The 30-year-old was carrying a rucksack in which an axe with a six-inch blade was found during a search. Three members of the group then attacked and punched him, it was claimed.

The defendant, a steel erector with previous convictions involving 43 separate offences, admitted remembering little or nothing of what had happened but told police: "They pulled an axe on me and I picked it up." This version of events was dismissed because an axe had been found in his car earlier in the year.

Ford, of Dudley Street, West Bromwich, admitted possessing a weapon and a single wrap of cocaine.The 18 months will be served at the same time as the remainder of his previous sentence.

Mr Simon Phillips, defending, said: "He has been recalled to prison for breaking the terms of his licence. His earliest release date is February 2020."

New Zone space provides activities

A NEW facility for people with learning disabilities or autism has opened.

Mayor Councillor Joy Edis opened up the space called The Zone at Acorn Lodge in Vicarage Road, Oldbury.

The space will be used to provide a range of activities for its 160 users, filling it with specialist kit, from wheelchair hoists to sensory boards, with walls covered with art created by participants.

It will host the charity's choir, dance group, sensory and physical activities and will be offered to other groups.

Mandy Critch, manager at Acorn Lodge, said: "The area, called the zone, is where we can get people out onto mats and bean bags to give them a break from the wheelchair.

"It's a fantastic new addition to help with looking after people."

Shops under hammer for more than £1.1m

A PARADE of shops in the Black Country is up for sale with a price tag of more than £1.1 million.

The row in Three Shires Oak Road, Smethwick, have been listed for SDL Auctions Bigwood's October 24 auction at Villa Park.

Prison for burglar who crashed into seven cars

A BURGLAR who crashed into seven cars while on bail for stealing jewellery from a family's home, has been sentenced to 20 months in jail.

Asad Hussain and his brothers Davinder and Gurdial Samra, climbed through an insecure window at a property in Wednesbury, on July 1, stealing jewellery, Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

They were seen leaving the house and were chased by police who forced their car to stop. All were released on bail pending further inquiries.

Two months later Hussain was at the wheel of a stolen car – allegedly without knowing it had been taken – when he sped into Cheshire Road, Smethwick. He careered into the back of two cars as they moved out from behind parked vehicles to allow a motorist to pass the opposite way, said Mr Searle. He then cannoned into five parked cars before an eyewitness stopped him running away.

Ms Kamalpreet Shergill, defending 32-year-old Gurdial Samra, said the burglary had not been pre-planned.

Davinder Samra, 33, and his brother, both of Palamino Place, Ladywood, and Hussain of Bellfield Road, Winson Green, all pleaded guilty to burglary. Hussain also admitted dangerous driving and was also banned from driving for a year. The brothers each got 16 months.

Jetting off for a chance to ski

WITH the main summer holiday season over and locals looking to head off to the slopes, Jet2.com has announced details of its winter's ski programme from Birmingham Airport.

The airline will operate ski flights to four top ski destinations – Geneva, Grenoble, Salzburg and Turin – from Birmingham Airport this winter, with over 45,000 ski seats on sale to the snow – a capacity increase of 17 per cent on last winter. From December Jet2 will run flights to Geneva three times a week, a pair of weekend services to Grenoble, weekly Saturday flights to Salzburg in Austria and a pair of weekend flights to Turin. Most services will run until April. Jet2.com ski flights from Birmingham start from £39 one way including taxes.

Poppy dance held

AN evening of singing, dancing and Remembrance will be held at a poppy dance in Tipton on November 19, from 7.30pm, at Brook Street Community Centre, near Bloomfield Road. Tickets are £2.50. Call 0121 5570371.

How Windrush helped shape the NHS

Jennifer Simpson, who is featured

A SERIES of photographs and images will be on display in Sandwell Hospital during October to mark Black History Month.

The display has been put together to capture the Windrush generation nurses and medical staff who have helped to shape the NHS.

They feature in the Here To Stay exhibition which features pictures taken by photographer Inés Elsa Dalal. Among the workers included in the powerful collection are Jennifer Simpson, whose parents came to the UK in the late 1950s.

Her mother began working for the NHS, starting as a State Enrolled Nurse, and worked her way up to become a senior staff nurse. Jennifer followed in her mother's footsteps and also became a nurse, working at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis Hospitals.

"I was quite overwhelmed with getting the post because I had quite a few issues which made me think I wasn't able to get a job," explained Jennifer, who is a single mum.

"I went straight into theatres for 18 months, but during that course of time I was so interested and motivated by what I was learning that it triggered a desire in me to want to know more." She recalled: "The consultant hadn't got a junior doctor at that time, the role was very new. So here I was, black, female, and a single parent of a disabled child, pioneering this new role."

Over time, Jennifer carried out various procedures including peg insertions, as well as colonoscopies. To find out more head to the exhibition at the hospital's Education Centre.

Drug user lost control of stolen motor in pursuit

A DRUG user lost control in a stolen car as he tried to outpace pursuing police. Joel Cooper caused £12,000 worth of damage and has now been locked up.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Cooper was at the wheel of a Ford Fiesta taken from outside the home of the woman owner two weeks earlier.

The 20-year-old was spotted in the vehicle while stationary in the car park of a restaurant in Tividale Road, Tipton.

It sped off as police officers approached and led them on a two and a half mile chase through heavy traffic during which he clipped the wing mirrors of other vehicles while overtaking, said Mr Ian Ball, prosecuting.

The defendant drove on the wrong side of Dudley Road East for a short distance before ploughing into another Ford Fiesta which was waiting at the tail of a queue in Fountain Lane, Oldbury on July 19 last year.

Plates

The defendant and his passenger got out of the wrecked stolen car – which was on false plates – and fled into a dead end. They were found hiding in the boiler room of a nearby building. Both cars were badly damaged and it cost £12,000 to repair them, Mr Ball said.

On December 8 police searched the defendant's home address in relation to an unrelated inquiry and found more than £800 worth of cocaine and an unspecified amount of cannabis.

Cooper, who had previous convictions involving nine separate offences, failed to turn up for his sentencing hearing on June 7 and was not arrested until September 26, the court heard.

Mr Richard McConaghy, defending, said: "This is a young man who has been making bad, spur of the moment decisions and does not want to carry on like this."

Cooper of Peel Way, Tividale, admitted dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle taking and absconding. He was ordered to be detained for ten months in a Young Offenders Institution.

The passenger travelling with him was dealt with for possession at a separate hearing.

School blooms with £65k garden

King's Hill Primary headteacher Nin Matharu opens the garden with nursery and reception pupils

A MASSIVE garden revamp which cost £65,000 has been unveiled at a primary school.

The garden, for early years pupils, was opened by headteacher Nin Matharu at King's Hill Primary, Old Park Road, Wednesbury.

The council footed half the bill. New features include a mud kitchen for imaginative play, a Hobbit house, a water play area, a water wall and a tepee.

Mrs Matharu said: "We have invested heavily in transforming our outdoor learning area.

"Many new features have been added to ensure children are encouraged to explore and learn independently. Parents, staff and children are absolutely delighted at the outdoor provision we're now able to offer."

In 2016, Ofsted inspectors rated the school 'requires improvement' but by January this year, the school was rated as 'outstanding'.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Smurfect prize in shops competition

A SHOPPING centre is asking customers to give a home to one of two 3ft-tall Smurfs.

The team at New Square Shopping Centre in West Bromwich is looking to part ways with the two models.

The pair will be found a new home as part of a competition, being run on the centre's Facebook page. Two winners will be able to pick their choice of Smurf as a prize.

The competition closes on October 9, but there has already been a massive response with 317 entries and 4,400 people viewing the competition. Enter at www.facebook.com/NewSquare WestBromwich.

Chance to go batty on Halloween trail

FAMILIES can head to RSPB Sandwell Valley for Halloween fun.

The nature reserve is hosting a bat-themed trail from October 27 to November 4.

Visitors will be led around the site to find answers to a ghoulish quiz with a prize for everyone that solves the clues.

During the trail there will be plenty of thrills and surprises to keep everyone entertained.

The trail takes place between 11am to 3pm, with prices at £3 per child, or £2.40 per RSPB child member.

Site visit ahead of school decision

PLANNERS were visiting the site of a proposed primary school before making a decision on the scheme.

Sandwell Futures Ltd lodged the application for the school on land on Waterloo Road in Smethwick.

A decision was expected at meeting yesterday (Wednesday). But members of Sandwell Council's planning committee were advised to carry out a site visit first.

The school would house 42 full-time employees and come with external play areas, landscaping and a pupil drop off area

Fashion parade has latest trends on show

A POP-up fashion show at New Square shopping centre in West Bromwich will showcase new autumn and winter trends for 2018.

The free and interactive event takes place on Saturday, from 11am-4pm, with the chance to win some prizes throughout the day.

Veteran stylist, Jill Pollitt from Fashion Stylist said: "New Square has all the most fashion forwards high street stores right on hand."

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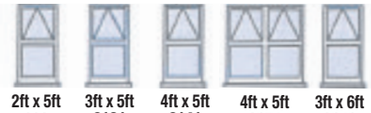

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COUNTY NEWS

Schools invited to try drama scheme

THE National Theatre is inviting primary schools in the West Midlands looking for inspiration for their end-of-term play to take part in its Let's Play programme. It provides everything that teachers need to create an outstanding piece of theatre and inspire creative learning.

Schools can send up to four teachers on a theatre-making course led by professional theatre artists as well as choosing from eight specially-commissioned scripts, musical scores and backing tracks for original songs.

Visit nationaltheatre.org.uk/letsplay to find out more about the programme and to register to take part.

Call for bobbies on village streets

CALLS are being made for heightened security in Essington. Councillor David Clift, of South Staffordshire Council, said residents are 'demanding answers' from police after an increase in crime in the area.

Councillor David Clifft said: "We need warranted police officers back on our streets instead of PCSOs who have limited powers and finish their shifts at 10am.

"Replacing warranted officers with PCSOs isn't working. Because of this Essington and other communities in Staffordshire have become targets and easy picking for criminals. Residents are now demanding answers."

Building materials sales on the rise

BUILDERS' merchant sales in the UK were up by 1.1 per cent in July on the previous month. On the year from July 2017 they were up by 8.3 per cent according to the Builders Merchant Building Index.

The increase was helped by the month having an extra trading day than a year before. Three product categories achieved their highest monthly sales in four years – heavy building materials, timber and joinery products and decorating.

Kristian in effort to find future gymnasts

BLACK Country-based Olympic gymnast-turned coach, Kristian Thomas is involved in a drive to encourage boys to take up gymnastics.

Park Wrekin Gymnastics Club, based in Wellington, is recognising a rising demand from boys and Kristian welcomed Italian national gymnastics coach and judge Alessandro Monti to the Telford coaching team. He said: "Alessandro will be a great asset."

Union claims trust 'starved' of funding

A SOCIAL care provider is being 'starved' of funding by a council, it has been claimed.

A row has broken out over the level of support for Sandwell Community Caring Trust (SCCT), which supports dementia sufferers and vulnerable people in their homes. Furious union bosses say funding has not increased for eight years.

Unite says SCCT receives an average of £54.39 a day to provide day care for adults with learning disabilities – and that figure has not increased for eight years. The union claims the total is less than half given to some private providers used by the council who can receive up to £146.10 per person per day.

It has resulted in the company having to cut the terms and conditions of staff who are set to have their enhanced payments for weekends and bank holiday work reduced, Unite said. However, the council has hit back saying funding to the firm has increased by more than half a million pounds over the last two years. SCCT provides residential care and supported living for people with dementia, and respite and day care for adults with learning disabilities.

Relations have broken down between the council and Unite, according to the union, which says its attempts to resolve the matter have been thwarted as Sandwell's director of adult social care David Stevens, who it claims had initially refused to meet Unite regional officer Brian Rickers. Mr Rickers was adjudged to have sent an 'overly aggressive' letter to Mr Stevens when seeking information, it was claimed.

From pretty in pink to muddy marvellous

THEY started off pretty in pink – but by the end of the Race for Life event thousands of fundraisers were covered in mud.

The Pretty Muddy 5k obstacle course in Sandwell Valley Country Park was organised by Cancer Research UK.

Around 2,000 women tackled the course, gathering at the start line in a sea of pink. They were caked in mud by the time they had finished the course, which included tunnels, slides and mud pools.

An additional Pretty Muddy Kids 5K saw 350 youngsters take part. But it was all for a good cause as around £87,500 was raised for Cancer Research UK from Saturday's event.

Messages

Most of the female-only field had personal reasons for taking part, with many sticking up messages about their loved ones in the warm-up area.

Kirsten Shore, area event manager for Cancer Research UK, said: "It was a beautiful day. The event was incredibly well supported and there was an amazing atmosphere with more than 2,000 people coming together for one common cause."

Shannon Hebberts, from Smethwick, took part with her aunt Angela Whyborn. The 21-year-old student nurse said she signed up because her mother Jenny was currently being treated for breast cancer.

She said: "It was such fun and amazing to see so many pink ladies get filthy. There were more obstacles than I imagined and it was quite emotional seeing all the reasons people were taking part.

"The doctors can treat mum's cancer but they can't cure it. That's why Angela and I wanted to do our bit to help fund the doctors, nurses and scientists working on the front line to beat cancer."

From left, Sarah Molloy, Hayley Nelson and Stella Nelson from Great Barr and Winson Green

Grace Turner, Poppy Phillip and Annabel Phillips

A youngster gets caked in the Pretty Muds Kids 5K

Fantasist medic in 'arrest' gets jail on hold

A WEST Midlands Ambulance Service paramedic, who fantasised of becoming a policeman, dressed like one to snatch an innocent person off the street, a judge heard.

James Stringer struck as Paul Round walked home from a friend's house along Churchfield Avenue, Tipton at 1.20am, on June 6 last year, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 27-year-old – wearing black combat trousers and shirt with a radio taken from the ambulance service on his chest – got out of his parked silver Astra to tell the startled pedestrian he was wanted by police.

Mr Simon Hunka, prosecuting said that Stringer grabbed hold of his left arm and snapped a set of handcuffs round the wrist before dragging him to the ground. Marissa Higgins was at home when she heard a man shouting 'give me your badge number, give me your name'. She went outside to investigate with her 14-year-old daughter, continued Mr Hunka.

She snatched his radio and discovered it was not switched on and did not have a battery, the court heard. Stringer released the handcuffs after being punched in the face by Mr Round and 'went nuts' when called a fake cop by Ms Higgins.

He drove off, ignoring police attempts to stop him as he reached 90mph in a 40 zone. Stringer gave himself up soon afterwards. He had been a paramedic for nine months and resigned the following day.

Stringer, of Cambrian Way, Winsford, Cheshire, admitted impersonating a police officer, false imprisonment, dangerous driving and possession of an offensive weapon. Judge Simon Ward gave him a 22-month jail term suspended for two years with 120 hours unpaid work, a six month curfew and two year driving ban.

Charity award for patient inclusion

A BIRMINGHAM-based charity has won an award at this year's British Medical Association Patient Information Awards. The Children's Liver Disease Foundation was chosen as the winner of the children's special prize for their resource – 'Joe's Liver Transplant Story'.

The story was written by the mother of a transplant recipient who is also a palliative care consultant so was uniquely placed to present this from the view of the child but with clinical accuracy. The Patient Information Awards were established in 1997 to demonstrate the BMA's commitment to supporting the excellent educational practice of patients.

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Crime chief Jamieson – ditching key role is risky

DAVID Jamieson has warned that scrapping the role of police and crime commissioner could mean the force is not held to account properly in the future.

The West Midlands Labour PCC says he stands by his record since coming into office in 2014, insisting he has created a model that is 'one of the strongest in the country' when it comes to holding the police to account on behalf of the public.

The elected position is due to be axed in 2020 as part of plans to include its duties under the remit of the region's mayor.

And Mr Jamieson says he has concerns over the level of scrutiny placed on West Midlands Police in future.

"My big concern is that moving the PCC into the mayoral model,will give the mayor a wider role but with less depth," he said.

"I think as a result that depth of inquiry and probing that comes with the PCC role will be lost. We are one of the few forces that has a detailed process of holding the police to account.

"And of course the other part of the role is advocacy of the police – meeting with the Home Secretary and other politicians to speak on behalf of the police and making sure that MPs and council leaders are fully informed about what we are doing.

"I'm not sure that a mayor has the capacity to do all that."

Robbers put safe in car, then flee

THREE masked robbers bundled a safe containing Asian gold into a car and before speeding off. Dramatic CCTV footage shows the men lifting the safe into a silver Audi A3.

The group had pulled up outside a property in Holly Road, Handsworth, armed with baseball bats, according to Police. They forced the property's door open and grabbed the safe but were confronted outside by three people. The raiders threatened them before driving off towards Grove Lane.

No-one was injured during the incident – which took place just after 6pm on Sunday September 15.

Anyone with information should contact DC Chris Warren-Smith on c.b.warrensmith@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk, or call 101 anytime.

Kingly gig at hall

BRITISH blues band King King will be playing in Birmingham next year. They are playing 10 venues in the UK, including Birmingham Town Hall on February 1. The band played more than 20 festivals this summer

Staff praised for dignified elderly care

Councillor Ann Shackleton with care staff

CARE staff from across Sandwell have been recognised for the work they are doing to promote the importance of treating the elderly with dignity.

The fifteen care employees – who work in nursing homes, residential homes, extra-care housing schemes or provide domiciliary care for people in their own homes – are the first to complete the special programme to become human rights and dignity champions in their workplaces.

They attended monthly workshops which as well as providing them with support and information, gave them the opportunity to share ideas and suggestions to promote human rights and dignity, improving the quality of life for Sandwell residents receiving care and support services.

They will now become a champion in their own workplace, promoting what they have learned to other colleagues and challenging situations where they believe rights are being compromised or not promoted.

One of the champions, Jayne Buckingham, designed a special doll called Freda – to help her spread the dignity message. Jayne who works at Holly Grange, one of Sandwell Council's extra-care housing schemes, said: "I wanted to create a character that would help me get the message across to residents and colleagues.

"Freda's name spells out Fairness, Respect, Equality, Dignity and Autonomy, which represents the five principles of human rights. I wanted to turn Freda into something tangible that people could relate to, while reinforcing the message that people are individuals with their own preferences and needs."

Mosque expansion gets green light after appeal

A MOSQUE in Smethwick has won a planning battle to expand after the council's refusal was overturned.

The upper floors of the Imam Shafi Mosque on Woodburn Road will now be transformed into a new community centre.

Mosque bosses were told by Sandwell Council last November their application could not be granted because the building was designated for business use and because of concerns over parking.

But an inspector dismissed council officers' reasons for rejection after an appeal against the council decision.

Mike Hayden, a government appointed planning official, delivering his decision, said: "I noted a number of vacant sites and premises within the Foundry Lane employment area and the appellant's uncontested evidence is that the ground floor of the appeal premises has been vacant for a long time.

Transport

"There is little evidence that the proposal would undermine the overall supply of employment floorspace in the borough."

In addition, he rejected concerns over parking saying the site is close to public transport links and the times of the centre's main use on weekends would not conflict with nearby commercial properties.

Granting the appeal, he imposed conditions that a change of use notice be included in the original application and limiting opening hours to weekends, late evenings during Ramadan and Friday afternoons to avoid adverse effects on the weekday operations of the neighbouring industrial units.

Mohammed Zulfiqar, planning consultant at ZS Partnership LTD on behalf of the applicants, said: "It's hard to find places like these for families."

The community centre will be used by members of the Kurdish community.

Hundreds of people use the mosque.

No-one from the mosque was available for comment.

Ladies on the run towards fitness

SANDWELL Leisure Trust's latest Couch to 5K initiative in Cradley Heath has begun with a record 260 participant sign-ups.

The nine-week course that sees non-runners start from scratch and collectively build up to managing 5,000 metres together, kicked off on Sunday September 23, at Old Hill Cricket Club.

It was intended not just as a new community partnership designed to bring new people to the fitness and mental wellbeing programme, but also attract extra members to the idyllic Haden Park Road facility.

It's being led by SLT's Haden Hill Leisure Centre Fitness team (with Old Hill CC volunteers assisting) and interest has even surpassed the recently completed Couch to 5K event at the Trust's Tipton Sports Academy on Wednesbury Oak Road, which had a retention rate twice above the national average.

Neil Duggan from SLT's Marketing & Business Development team says: "Demand and interest has been phenomenal as word spreads about the inspirational body shape changing and health transformation experiences that our Couch to 5K participants have both enjoyed and achieved.

"It was a stunning Sunday morning – with the gloom just lifting before the new runners arrived – and with family, friends and work colleagues cheering them on too, it created a superb community atmosphere."

Runners at Old Hill Cricket Club, in the Sandwell Leisure Trust scheme

Celebrating their efforts as part of the Couch to 5k initiative

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rugby club move on booze backed

A NEW £3 million rugby club complex has won its controversial application to sell alcohol. The proposal was said to be crucial to the sustainability of the Avery Fields Sports and Events centre in Edgbaston which is now serving as the first permanent home to Bournville Rugby Football Club in its 109-year history.

Birmingham City Council had previously rejected the application on the back of concerns from West Midlands Police and around 100 residents.

But a licensing sub committee has now approved a significantly-altered application, including a rule which means alcohol can only be consumed within the clubhouse.

Leader priority to fight cuts spiral

DEFIANT returning Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe has vowed to fight tooth and nail to stop spiralling cuts in government funding he fears will hit £100 million by 2020.

The Labour councillor has made the battle against austerity his key priority while also revealing plans are in place to review proposals for a controversial Coseley travellers site in Budden Road.Conservatives were ousted by one vote as former Tory councillor Heather Rogers shifted to Labour telling the crunch council meeting of 'bullying, victimisation and harassment' in her former party.

Venue seeks £25k to replace stage

A BIRMINGHAM city centre theatre has launched an appeal to raise £25,000 to replace the main house stage.

The stage at The Crescent Theatre in Sheepcote Street, Brindleyplace, is more than 20 years old and is in need of major refurbishment.

The theatre is a not-for-profit charity and receives no funding. It is seeking the support of theatregoers and local businesses to help fund the work.

A number of fundraising events are being planned at the theatre.

Brownfield site may be housing estate

DOZENS of homes could be built in Oldbury, under new plans. Developers have unveiled proposals to build 47 houses and flats in Mill Lane.

If given the go ahead, the housing estate will be build on a disused brownfield former employment site. The previous buildings have already been demolished. Bromford Developments are behind the project.

Plans are for all of the homes to be affordable housing.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

There's no art at all in paying out for this

A MEDIUM-sized, white wall unit, with six shelves. Adorned with about 35, small, plain white vases, and a few matching plates.

It's quite stylish, but unremarkable. The sort of thing you might see in the Wilko catalogue. So what would you pay for it? £200? Ok, push the boat out. At a pinch you might shell out £400, if you've got a trendy loft apartment. And you don't have to assemble it yourself.

You might therefore be surprised to learn that somebody paid £126,000 for this piece of furniture. That's right £126,000 for six shelves and a few dozen bits of cheap-looking pottery.

The reason, of course, is that this has not been sold as 'furniture', which it surely is, but as 'modern art', which these days appears to be a euphemism for 'useless art'. Assemble a few shelves, stick some cheap vases on them, give it a name – in this case, A Short History Of The China Trade - and that's '£126,000 please sir, have a nice day'.

Now that would be quite funny if it was just some pretentious London luvvie or vulgar Russian oligarch wasting their money on this junk. But unfortunately, it is you and I who has been taken for a ride.

A Short History of the China Trade is a recent addition to the Government Art Collection, comprising some 14,000 works. The taxpayer has also shelled out £2,346 for a child-like line drawing of a stickman on the wing of an aeroplane. Or for something more eye-catching, there is Caragh Thuring's 8ft canvas, featuring 12 lines of untidy handwriting about Anne and Agnes Bartholomew's wardrobe, or something like that. Ours for £28,500.

Then we come to In The Back by German Wolfgang Timmins: it is a photograph of three rather shabby looking office windows lit up at night. The Government paid £66,114.

Given the lack of visual appeal, it is unsurprising that most of this tat ends up in storage, which presumably the taxpayer also foots the bill for.

Now most reasonable people will understand the Government investing some money in great works of art, which can be displayed in art galleries, and used on important state occasions. I don't begrudge our leaders shelling out a few grand for a Constable, particularly if it stops it leaving the country. But £126,000 for some shelving and £66,114 for a photo of some windows in times of supposed austerity is taking the proverbial.

Still, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, as the saying goes. I'm off to Argos for a flat-pack.

If change made would anyone notice the difference?

Gina Miller's Brexit list of 'all the options' effectively keeps the Remain vote intact

Lord Falconer – tutting over his suggestion that all drugs should be legalised

'You dirty rats' – remembered as James Cagney's immortal line in Each Dawn I Die

Legalise? Already easy to get drugs

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

I SUPPOSE we should all harrumph and tut-tut at Lord Falconer's suggestion that all drugs should be legalised. And yet. I have been watching and reporting on the so-called "war on drugs" for almost 50 years and it is easier today to get any substance you want, at a time and place to suit you, than I can ever recall. If, as Falconer suggests, a future Labour government chose to "legalise and regulate the supply of drugs," then most people would avoid them, some would try them and a tiny minority would become hooked on them and wreck their lives. In short, would anyone notice the difference?

FAREWELL, Labour. Goodbye, the Lib-Dems. And by now the Conservatives at their conference will have buried their differences, hammered out a Brexit deal acceptable to every MP and to our EU neighbours and arise, refreshed and invigorated, to prepare for another 20 years of government. Only joking!

THE best the PM can hope for is to delay the General Election until the constituency boundaries have been redrawn, as suggested by the Boundary Commissions, and the number of MPs reduced from 650 to 600. This, depending on your politics, will either redress a long-standing and unfair bias in favour of Labour or shift the goalposts for another Tory swindle.

MEANWHILE, we may all punch the air with joy at Labour's plan to wring billions out of the super-rich. At present, the richest one per cent of taxpayers comprises about 300,000 people earning more than £160,000 a year. They pay about a quarter of all UK income tax. So how much more will they willingly pay before consulting the best tax-minimising accountants or emigrating? Has anyone done the sums?

THE Guardian, with its uncanny knack of focusing on the issues that matter to real people, delivers a piece headlined: "Brexit chisels away any right Britain had to the Parthenon marbles." Why, in Wolverhampton they talk of little else . . .

AND then you see Ms Gina Miller's list of 'all the options': 1) Leave the EU under the Chequers plan. 2) Leave the EU with no agreed deal. 3) Stay in the EU. You don't need a degree in maths to notice that this three-way poll effectively keeps the Remain vote intact while dividing the Leave vote, thus handing an 11th-hour victory to the Remainers. No-one doubts that Ms Miller is well educated and intelligent. But she seems to think the rest of us are as thick as mince.

IT is a good idea to invite the German president to the Cenotaph on Armistice Day. Even if we don't know who he is. Even if we weren't aware that Germany had a president. We should invite the President, who is Frank-Walter Steinmeier, for two good reasons. Firstly, it will draw a veil over generations of mistrust and bloodletting between Britain and Germany, two very similar nations who, left to their own devices, get on rather well. Secondly, it will irritate the hell out of the French.

WE set off on a walk, following the footpaths through farmland near Chateau Rhodes. Entering one field, we met two cows, three calves and a bull the size of a house. I seem to recall reading in a book that mixed-sex and mixed-generation groups like this are settled, content and harmless. And then the bull started bellowing and we fled. I don't think the bull had read the same book.

A CZECH politician, V ra Jourová, who is the European Union's Justice Commissioner, has taken offence at the British media's treatment of the Salzburg summit. She is outraged at the Sun's headline describing European leaders as "EU Dirty Rats." This, she says, makes the case for "a European approach to media based on quality and smart regulation, if needed." Or as we English call it, censorship. But there is a culture gap here. Foreigners see the term "dirty rats" and filthy, disease-ridden rodents. Brits instantly recognise it as a joke. "You dirty rats" was James Cagney's immortal line in Each Dawn I Die (1939), and has been parodied by comedians from Morecambe & Wise to Dad's Army. Don't you find it chilling that foreign politicians could advocate controlling the British Press to protect the EU from criticism? Especially foreigners who know nothing of Eric and Ernie and have never heard of Private Pike.

TALKING POINT

Tolerance going up in a puff of vapour

WE'VE all seen it – and what's more pertinent, smelt it. Vaping – I mean, what's that all about?

As a former smoker, I may have been poacher-turned-gamekeeper at times, complaining about the stink on the clothes of people who indulge in ciggies.

At least though, I can see the point of smoking, with an actual taste that is pretty unique, even if there are differences between your Marlborough and the classic Benson and Hedges. But having been smoke-free myself for nigh on 30 years, I still like the smell of smoking itself if I am situated near to puffed-out plumes. Perhaps it's a nostalgia thing.

It was never a good idea for an asthmatic like me to smoke anyway, and I follow a long line of my family who smoked despite suffering with the condition. It still rankles that at any point I have to mention something to a health worker, it comes up that I am an ex-smoker, despite the fact that presumably, after so long being 'clean', whatever damage I did to my lungs is now academic.

But it is the vapers (no not the 'I Think I'm Turning Japanese' fellows – ask your dad!) that I have a beef with.

All of a sudden, they're everywhere, creating their own huge clouds of disgusting fruit-flavoured yuckiness. And they don't realise how silly they look with this Kazoo-like pipe thing stuck in their gobs. Obviously, this takes on a whole new tack when you're trying to eat a meal in a pub which hasn't as-of-yet outlawed the practice within its environs.

Tucking into a juicy steak whilst at the same time inhaling cherry-flavoured ooze can be nausea-inducing.

I can't get my head around the fact, that if these people were smokers at one point, they go from the pretty standard tobacco flavour, to whatever it is they now stick in their devices – which can be anything from strawberry sherbert to cola. Literally thousands are available, and you can even buy lucky dip bags!

I remember once, on a health kick as a young man, I thought herbal cigarettes was the way to go and bought a pack from the local chemists. Uggh! They were disgusting, and yet now people seem to be clamouring for a similar experience.

In time, the true extent of any damage to health by vaping will come to light and then the manufacturers will have to think of other ways to market their products. Who knows, maybe then they will start making boiled sweets from their e-liquids instead . . . mmm, blackcurrant liquorice humbug anyone?

GRAEME ANDREW

Why can't I have a free bus pass?

I READ with avid interest the article written by Mrs Linda Bwalya: What about over-60s travel help? from the Chronicle of September 20.

I am a former colleague of hers, we both worked in Great Bridge for a large company.

I too am in the same position as I am now 64 and my pension has been put back yet again, to September 2020, two weeks before I am 66.

I was born and have worked in this country since I was 15 and cannot even afford the basic things in life, due to the Government's inability to pay my state pension. I wrote to Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands in December 2017 and received a reply which stated: "To date, the total cost of the concessionary scheme has been budgeted to £52.7 million and the cost of making the travel pass available to local people for the age of 60 for example, has been estimated at an additional £12-14m."

Why is it then, that Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Manchester introduced this scheme in April this year for bus passes to be made available for 60 and over?

Why is it available in parts of Wales, Scotland and Inner London and not the West Midlands?

Someone, please answer that.

I have lost some £45 in lost state pension and struggle to make ends meet.

A free bus pass would mean so much, as I cannot afford even the cheapest Black Country pass at £52 a month.

Think on, Mr Street.

Allowing this concession would be greatly beneficial to the people of the West Midlands.

LYNN P.
West Bromwich

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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EMAIL
graeme.andrew@expressandstar.co.uk

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Only peace is thanks to NATO

J Weyham (Letters, 14.9.2018) seems to be labouring under the misapprehension, that we have enjoyed, peace and security for the last 44 years, because we are in the EU.

The fact of the matter is we have enjoyed such peace and security because we are members of NATO, thus relying on the military power of the US to help protect us.

When Putin invaded the Ukraine the mighty EU huffed and puffed, however Putin/Russia knew that was all they could do, and hence lost very little sleep worrying about EU retaliation.

Regarding relegation to the lower leagues of trading if that means we can trade with the likes of China, India, the US and the rest of the world without seeking permission from the dictatorial EU, well bring on relegation. Let's see how the big boys in the premier league, i.e. Malta, Greece, Luxembourg get on without out us.

MR B CLARK
Smethwick

Why are youngsters allowed out so late?

WE often read and hear about youngsters being out in the early hours of the morning getting into trouble or being killed or disappearing. And it is peculiar why no-one asks why these people are out at those hours. I know times change, usually for the worst, as we are seeing these days.

When I was a teenager my mother would expect me home by 10pm, and she would be waiting on the doorstep for me. If I was out any longer she and Dad would get the car out and come after me. I never took trouble home to them. These days you hear of all sorts of things happening, and I just wonder what the parents of these young people are doing while their offspring are marauding around the towns and cities.

MR C K MILLWARD
Tipton

When life becomes a gamble

TOM Watson MP is against online gambling with credit cards. I agree. He said it six months ago, and I wrote then that buying a house is a gamble when the coal authority can plot a mine shaft on your property and wipe tens of thousands of the value.

I also said that local MPs should be up in arms, but nothing is being reported.

Tom has not answered my email sent some time ago, about four houses in one small close, who collectively have lost more than £200,000. All an MP has to do is kick up a stink with the coal authority, ask when the shaft was plotted, and if this is after purchase, demand compensation; if necessary raise it in the House (where else).

Perhaps he and others should represent their constituents, and earn his £75,000 a year (plus office and staff, of course).

Over to you, Tom Watson.

ROBERT W WHITE
Wigmore

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All change for next year's 100-mile route Velo cyclists

THE controversial 100-mile cycling event, Vélo, has had its route changed – so it will steer clear of Staffordshire and almost all of the Black Country when it takes place next year.

Vélo Birmingham Midlands will take cyclists east of Birmingham for the majority of the event on May 12. It will only briefly enter the boundaries of Sandwell and Dudley when the route turns east at Halesowen and down Hagley Road West to the finishing line in the city.

Report by Alex Ross

Last year the race, which was called Vélo Birmingham, divided opinion after it brought many villages in South Staffordshire and Dudley to a standstill.

The organisers were blamed for failing to consult over the route. Some businesses were forced to shut and saboteurs left nails and tacks along the route. Lord Sebastian Coe and England World Cup winning captain Martin Johnson attended the launch event in Birmingham.

It is expected that 17,000 riders will take part next year. Last year there were around 15,000.

Support

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, said 2017's event was an 'absolute triumph'. He said: "As we get ready to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games, the Velo Birmingham and Midlands will be a great event to showcase the best of the region.

"This was an absolute triumph last year, with 15,000 people riding their bikes on the closed road route and many residents coming out to support them. There was also a very positive impact on the local economy, and of course the thousands of pounds raised for different charities."

Despite the route only touching the boundaries of Sandwell and Dudley, both councils have had involvement in its preparations.

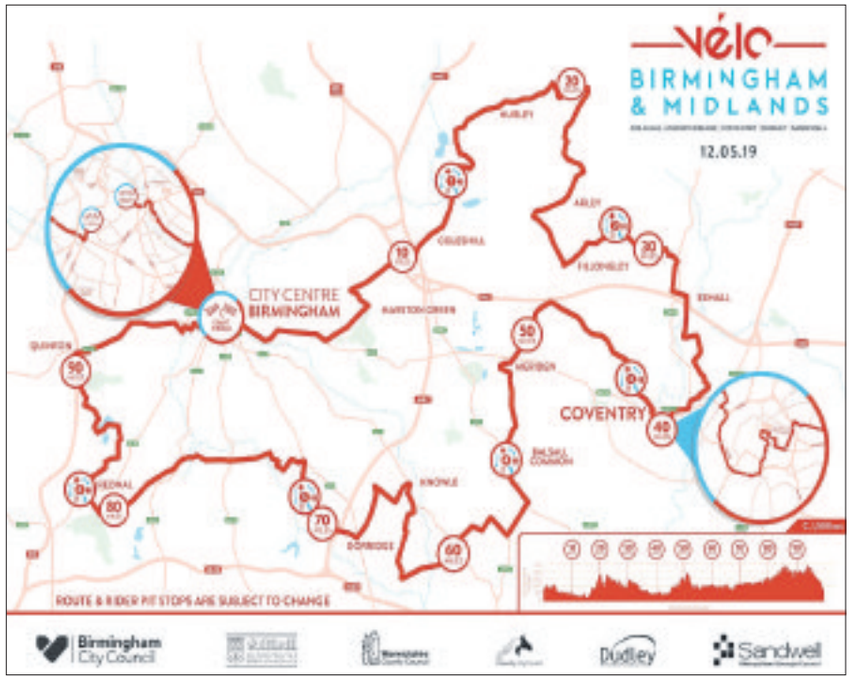
Councillor David Hosell, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "It's fantastic for Sandwell to be part of this major cycling event for the region and we'll be sure to give riders a big cheer as they cycle past our newly-restored Lightwoods House and Park on the way to the finish line. We will be working closely with the team at Vélo Birmingham Midlands for a successful event that also keeps disruption on our roads to a minimum."

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services at Dudley Council, said: "We pride ourselves on having some fantastic facilities in this borough for people to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and experience the great outdoors

"The newly named Vélo Birmingham Midlands is a great opportunity for communities to come together."

People can sign up for the event from October 4, however, there is expected to be fierce competition with 40,000 riders already registering interest.

For more information, visit www.velo birmingham.com



The extensive route of the velo for next year, which will touch on the Sandwell border on the way to the finish

Family left shaken after raiders target wrong home

A FAMILY say they are too frightened to return to their home after masked raiders targeted it by mistake.

Two men burst into the Hill Street flat in Brierley Hill as a father was getting his son, six, ready for Beavers.

The men, one who was armed with a machete, demanded drugs as the young schoolboy hid behind the sofa.

But when they realised they had the wrong address the men then ran off.

The boy's mother Samantha, who was at work at the time, said: "Two men kicked the door off while my son was there with his dad.

"One had a machete and they were asking for drugs.

"They realised they got the wrong place and scurried off. My son was just getting off to Beavers.

Shouted

She added: "I've tried to get him round to the fact we will have to go back.

"I'm trying to explain to him they got the wrong house but it doesn't work."

A West Midlands Police spokeswoman said: "Police are investigating after a flat in Hill Street, Brierley Hill, was broken into just before 5pm on Tuesday 11 September.

"It is believed two men broke down the front door and shouted at the occupants to hand over drugs but fled after being told there were no drugs on the premises.

"It's understood the men targeted the address in error and inquiries continue."

Anyone with information about the raid on September 11 at 5pm can contact police on 101 quoting crime number 20DY/207853Z/18, or alternatively call the Crimestoppers charity anonymously on the charity's hotline 0800 555111.

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WITH a memorable manly handshake, John Clews exudes a quiet, deep-seated confidence.

Articulate, transparent and at times philosophical, he's sharply focussed on why he's agreed to do this interview: "I want to give people like me hope," he declares.

The die-sinker knows a thing or two about clever engineering – he's been helping to construct specialised aircraft parts for more than 46 years – but with multiple failing teeth, instinctively knew that he too required the kind of skill that sets him apart as an experienced factory problem-solver.

For years, gum disease had insidiously invaded his mouth until toothache had become part of his daily routine. Intellectually, he knew he needed a dentist – and a good one – but gripped by a crippling fear he'd "pop the paracetamol" rather than face his demons.

"Fear is a terrible thing . . . I remember sitting in a dentist's chair and gripping the armrests so hard I pulled one of them off," John says.

"I came here and they promised to restore my smile, but they gave me back my life. It's true," he adds.

Practice principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC 108353 explains: "Periodontal disease is the biggest single cause of tooth loss in the UK and John's case is not unusual.

"There is plenty of study that examines the psychological impact of troublesome teeth on our lives. But like the insidious nature of gum disease, it can happen slowly as we make small changes to accommodate oral decline. Eventually, however, as things become more acute we are less able to adapt."

Matters came to head three years ago when John's family booked a weekend break at the Brecon Beacons to do a waterfalls walk. Adds John: "We take so many things for granted. We'd been walking a good few hours and we were all ready for something to eat.

Lifestyle investment

"We came across a cafe serving bacon sandwiches. But they hadn't got any normal bread and the bacon was served with baguettes. There was no way my teeth could have coped with the crusty bread so I ended up with a piece of cheesecake. I just so wanted a bacon sarnie, but my teeth had restricted my choice. That was it. At that point I decided to sort out my teeth.

"Too many times I'd go to a restaurant and look at 20 things on the menu and was only able to manage four of the choices. I'd really want steak, but I couldn't chew it; sometimes I just wouldn't go and eat out and I was always on my guard about smiling.

"And the toothache, the impact on daily living . . . it just drags you down and confidence wanes," he says.

> The implant teeth are great and I can eat whatever I want and go out for a meal whenever I want.

> It's a lifestyle investment for me and the difference it has made to my life is remarkable. It's a new kind of freedom.

After having six implants in his upper jaw to support a complete arch of teeth and undergoing other remedial work, John is now able to live his life without teeth worries.

"The implant teeth are great and I can eat what I want, go out for a meal when I want and more than this . . . I've got my life back," says the keen carp fisherman.

Explaining he could have changed his car, John adds such an investment would be lost very quickly. "This [the implants] has been a lifestyle investment for me and the difference it's made to my life is remarkable. It's a new kind of freedom." he says.

And his dental phobia? "All the staff were fantastic, I felt so much at ease."

The surgery was carried out by North Street's implant dentist Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576.

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Sarah focuses on helping lung condition sufferers

BLACK Country nurse Sarah Evans is going for the gold standard in collaboration with nursing and consultant colleagues across Europe.

So it's no surprise to learn that providing high quality care to support her patients locally is her main focus.

Sarah is the force behind a new support group for sufferers of a serious lung condition. The respiratory clinical nurse specialist, who works at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, has helped to set up the Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group for patients, their carers and relatives.

Sarah said: "Patients, who suffer pulmonary fibrosis, are more likely to have have a poor quality of life, as they regularly experience shortness of breath, a persistent dry cough, tiredness, loss of appetite, weight loss and rounded and swollen fingertips.

"So when we were approached by the charity Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis about setting up a support group for sufferers, we agreed as we also felt that this was something that was needed in the area."

The support group was launched in September and more than 20 patients and relatives came along to the first session.

Sarah continued: "Being able to launch this support group is definitely one of my career highlights. Drawing on my experience of caring for patients who have respiratory conditions, I understand how they can feel isolated as they are unable to take part in social events as often as they would like to.

"But this group means they are able to talk to other sufferers, or people who have experience of this crippling illness. And if they don't want to talk, they can just listen."

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations. It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally. Last year, the trust provided care from 150 locations.

This week we highlight:
SARAH EVANS
Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist

The 33-year-old nurse, who started working for the trust 11 years ago, holds an important role as she sees and treats patients with asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), bronchiectasis and interstitial lung disease.

She said: "I enjoy working with people and it gives me great satisfaction when I know I have helped a patient. Providing high quality care is extremely important to me. My job is to keep my patients as well as they can be, by educating and teaching them how to self-manage their disease and ensuring they are receiving appropriate treatment. By doing this we can manage respiratory conditions much more effectively."

Sarah's next big challenge will see her developing the interstitial nursing service with help from consultants and nurses across Europe. The new service will ensure that the trust delivers a gold standard service.

Outside work, mum-of-two Sarah enjoys playing the violin, piano and saxophone, and running a music school. She smiled: "We are a very musical family."

So who inspires Sarah? "My hero is Walt Disney," she said. "Firstly, he gave us many magical films and wonderful music to grow up to. His films promote good morals and emphasise the importance of being kind and caring. Secondly, he was such a hardworking and resilient person. Despite losing his business early on in his career, he bounced back and became even more successful.

"Finally, thanks to his films, I now get to enjoy them with my own children."

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5-year celebration off to a flier with Baggie Bird

THERE were celebrations at a leading Sandwell leisure centre last week, as it marked its first five years since opening.

Portway Lifestyle Centre first opened in September 2013 and to mark the milestone an interactive disability open day was held.

The award-winning facility in Newbury Lane in Oldbury, which is run by Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) opened its doors to colleagues from the borough council's adult services and the Albion Foundation's disability team.

A range of fun-based activities took place to engage the 200-strong participants – many of whom would have been involved when the centre first opened.

Michael Bott, the disability coordinator at Portway said: "We all very work together to get the best from people with disabilities and heighten people's health, wellbeing and physical activity through the free access slots.

Expand

Resident Stephen Talbot, who is at the centre five times a week, says: "I used to work on allotments, but I didn't like it. I love being at Portway much more as it has improved and changed my life for the better."

Paul Glover, head of disability at The Albion Foundation said: "The partnership that we have got with the Portway is probably the single most important thing that we do.

"It has allowed us to expand; we run leagues from there as well as weekday provision - and the support that we get from the people who run the centre has allowed us to progress to where we are."

As a centre of excellence for people with disabilities, Portway now hosts over 55,000 disabled visitors per year and has enjoyed 10 per cent growth year-on-year. The Portway Pass has provided over 2,200 Sandwell residents with disabilities free access to the pool, gym, fitness classes and many other activities offered at the centre.

Its gym buddies scheme supports individuals with visual impairments and continues to grow from strength to strength, while the hydrotherapy pool has helped hundreds of individuals to improve their mobility and coordination.

The all-weather 3G pitches have enabled Portway to host national football disability events and festivals for amputees and those with Down Syndrome, while in partnership with the Albion Foundation and Sandwell Council , Portway also launched a Pan Disability league.

Stephen Stanway from Tipton, with Baggie Bird, the Albion Foundation mascot

Sandwell age UK

Advice Sessions

Age UK Sandwell will be at the following Locations every other week from 18th September 2018
Call our office for details

Glebefields Library, St Marks Road, Tipton, DY4 0SZ (alternate Tuesday mornings). Next date – 18th September then every 2 weeks

Blackheath Library, 145 High Street, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, B65 0EA (alternate Wednesday afternoons). Next date 3rd October then every 2 weeks.

Thimblemill Library, Thimblemill Road, Smethwick, B67 5RJ (alternate Tuesday mornings). Next date 25th September then every 2 weeks.

Wednesbury Library, Walsall Street, Wednesbury, WS10 9EH (alternate Wednesday mornings). Next date 26th September and then every 2 weeks.

Wesley Church, 291 High Street , West Bromwich, B70 8ND (Mondays 10:00-12:30 and Thursdays 13:00-15:00 from w/c 24th September.)

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Recycling put on agenda in council effort

A RECYCLING campaign is being launched in Sandwell, with residents to be told what should and shouldn't be put in their blue-lid bins.

Council bosses want to make sure as much waste as possible is being recycled – and that the right material is being put in bins.

Items that can go in the bins are drink cans and food tins; plastic bottles and tubs; glass bottles and tubs; foil trays and aerosols; newspapers and magazines and card and cardboard boxes.

Environment boss Councillor David Hosell said: "Recycling is now firmly on the national agend. Recycling really matters and makes a big difference on reducing the amount of raw materials needed to make new products.

"Our Recycle Right message is a simple but important one. Only the right type of items, which should be clean, dry and loose, should be put into the blue-lid bins."

Three new Birmingham railway stations are on track

Plans for a trio of new Birmingham railway stations at Moseley, Kings Heath and Hazelwell have been unveiled

The plans are being jointly developed by the West Midlands Rail Executive, Transport for West Midlands, West Midlands Railway and Network Rail, who are working together on the track, signalling and service changes required.

The Camp Hill Line is to be reopened to passenger services for the first time since the Second World War and will initially have three stations. The hope is it will attract new passengers to rail by offering an alternative to commuting via bus and car on the congested A435 Alcester Road.

The initial service from these stations is expected to be two trains an hour into central Birmingham, with journey times of around 15 minutes.

Detailed planning will take place over the next 12 months on the three stations. It is hoped that construction work will start in 2020, with a view to getting the three stations open by the end of 2021 in time for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street was joined by Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling for a tour of the Moseley station site and the unveiling of the station designs.

An artist's impression of Moseley station, which would be open in time for the Commonwealth Games

Mr Street said: "I know exactly how important reopening this railway line is to people in the communities in Kings Heath, Moseley and Hazelwell, and everybody who has a part to play in making this happen is working towards getting it reopened as quickly as possible.

"Congestion from this part of the city into the city centre is one of the huge drawbacks for what are otherwise thriving areas – undoing the rail closures seven decades ago will be a huge step in tackling both congestion and the clean air challenge we all face."

In the longer term, more frequent services may be possible as part of the Midlands Rail Hub which will deliver the Camp Hill Chords project to link the line to Moor Street Station and allow more trains into Birmingham city centre. Although there are no firm plans at this stage, a fourth station could also be opened at Balsall Heath in the future.

The Camp Hill Line development is part of a much wider package of investment in transport underway in the West Midlands.

Councillor Roger Lawrence, the chairman of West Midlands Rail Executive, said: "The Moseley line is part of the wider investment TfWM is making across our region. We are working on extending our tram network, developing new Sprint rapid bus routes and of course looking to reopen more railway lines.

"We are also making progress on plans to reopen the Wolverhampton to Walsall line to passengers with new stations at Willenhall and Darlaston as part of our ambition to create a world class integrated transport system.

"This investment in the region's bus, rail, cycling and trams will not only improve lives of residents and commuters, but it will underpin the economic growth of our region."

Backing for shop plan at pub

COUNCIL planners may have sealed the fate of a popular pub after backing a move by a supermarket to take it over.

Heron Foods wants to create a new shop on the site of the Sportsman in Tipton, despite it still being open for business.

The pub, on St Mark's Road, is now facing the very real threat of closure.

A campaign has been launched to save it by customers but councillors have been advised to give the plans the green light.

Councillors were set to have the final say at a meeting this week, but were being advised by experts that the plan should be allowed to go ahead.

Planners said it was 'accepted that the redevelopment of the site would result in the loss of the pub' but that as it had not been nominated for Asset of Community Value status, the application was 'only be reviewed on the merits of the scheme'.

Petitions signed by more than 600 people calling for the pub, which has been a fixture of the area for around 50 years, to be saved have been handed to Sandwell Council, while customers have also written to MP Adrian Bailey asking him to back the campaign.

Another 230 letters of objection were being considered by the planning committee.

The pub is owned by New River Retail. James Marsh, of South Road, who drinks in the Sportsman, has threatened to boycott the Heron shop, should it open at the pub.

He said: "Since the new landlord has taken over he has built it back up again and it seems a shame to shut it when it is doing so well."

Father-of-three Mr Marsh, aged 38, said residents were concerned both about the potential loss of the pub and the arrival of a new supermarket.

Pub manager Ross Arnold took over in February following its brief closure around Christmas. He said: "It is a pub that means a lot to the community."

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M6 link choice 'a game changer for the region'

DRIVERS travelling through the Midlands are set to benefit from a new multi-million-pound route announced by Highways England.

The new route linking the M54 to the M6 is set to slash up to 30 minutes off journeys for regular commuters each week.

It promises to take about 22,000 vehicles a day from the A460, making that major road less congested.

It will also ease congestion on the A449 and A5 by separating local traffic from long-distance and commuter traffic, and overall the impact on congestion will boost the regional economy, according to Highways England.

The route was chosen after a consultation that saw nearly three quarters of respondents give it the thumbs-up.

A map showing the preferred route, in green, which is based on Option B West

Feedback

Project manager Andrew Kelly, from Highways England, said: "We want to provide a road that works for both drivers and also the local community living nearby.

"We were really pleased to have so much feedback during the consultation, and this route was the clear winner. Once completed, it will also relieve traffic congestion on the A460, A449 and A5, improve safety and support economic growth for the Midlands."

Currently, the M54 merges with the M6 southbound at junction 10a.

This means northbound traffic must leave the motorway network and take other routes to connect with the M6 north at junction 11 or 12 or the toll road at junction T8. The A460 carries about 26,500 vehicles each day, with heavy goods vehicles making up about 10 per cent of this figure.

Highways England consulted on three options for a new route, and will now take forward its preferred route, which is based on Option B West.

This option is the shortest route, providing the best journey time of the options. Once complete, the new route will include:

- A two-lane dual carriageway link road between M54 junction 1 and M6 junction 11
- An improved junction arrangement at M54 junction 1 and M6 junction 11

Maria Machancoses, of transport body Midlands Connect, said: "This project is a potential game changer for the Midlands motorway network."

Anyone wishing to find out more about the scheme can attend a public exhibition being staged tomorrow (Friday) from 2pm to 7pm in the main function room at Essington Community Centre, in Hobnock Road, Essington and on Saturday from 10am to 5pm in the council chamber at the same venue.

There will be a further consultation in 2019 when Highways England will ask for further views on this more detailed design before applying for a Development Consent Order which is part of the planning process for the new route.

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Apprentice Ruksana is in awards final

A UNIVERSITY of Wolverhampton degree apprentice from Wednesbury has been shortlisted for a top award in recognition of her hard work.

Ruksana Kavde is currently studying for a Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship (CMDA) at the university, alongside her role as information officer within the Virtual School team at Walsall Council.

Rucksana Kavde

She is a finalist in the Asian Apprenticeship Awards 2018 in the charity, voluntary organisations and public services category.

Ruksana, started the apprenticeship with the university's Faculty of Social Sciences in January.

She was part of a university group at a House of Lords reception in June to celebrate apprenticeships and spoke about the experience of studying alongside her work and family commitments.

Ruksana said: "I am incredibly humbled to be nominated for the Asian Apprenticeship award, let alone become a finalist. I am so grateful to Helena Baxter from Walsall Council for nominating me, my supportive manager Lorraine Thompson, my team members and my family for believing in me."

Mark Price, director of apprenticeships (business), said: "She has really shone since joining the CMDA programme and we're delighted to see her commitment and achievements recognised in this way."

The winners of the Asian Apprenticeship Awards will be announced at a ceremony in Birmingham on November 29.

Stonehouse's legacy, 50 years on, but has it been first class?

IT was 50 years ago that Wednesbury MP John Stonehouse, in his role as postmaster general, introduced the first-class mail system.

It was heralded as a brave new era for the post, which would guarantee next-day delivery and bring in an extra £25 million for government coffers.

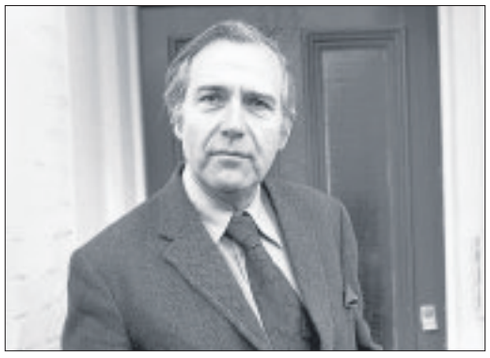
However, the move was not met with enthusiasm in certain quarters, with some businessmen in the Midlands calling it 'sabotage', as it meant that the two speed mail service, costing an extra penny, would see some letters given priority over others.

It was in September 1968 that Mr Stonehouse, who was also MP for Walsall North, oversaw the introduction of the 5d first-class service, which as well as boosting the Treasury budget, was supposed to even out the postman's workload as well as offering customers a new improved service.

What could possibly go wrong?

At a press conference 11 days earlier, Mr Stonehouse had repeatedly denied that Royal Mail would deliberately hold up second-class mail to make the new service more attractive to customers. He told reporters that the second-class mail would be delayed until the first-class mail had been sorted, but that the delay would be nothing more than that.

However, a head postmaster, Mr G C Steggle, based in Wellington, near Telford, said the system was "geared so the 4d mail automatically was sorted 24 hours after the 5d".



Postmaster general – Wednesbury's former MP, John Stonehouse

Shropshire Star

BIG MAIL HOLD-UP 'SABOTAGE' —FIRM

Hundreds flee new chaos

Exports zoom to a record

'Cuppa' strike 2,000 return

1968 newspaper headlines claim 'sabotage'

"Staff arrangements are based on this," he added.

Shrewsbury's head postmaster Mr J W King agreed. He said letters posted at the old rate were not deliberately being held back, but would arrive 24 hours later than before. This led many people to believe they had the choice of paying 25 per cent more for the same service, or the same price for a slower one. Mr King did say that 97 per cent of second class mail would arrive within two days, though, and added that long-distance post would not be affected.

Shropshire County Council, one of the biggest users of the postal service was not impressed either. The authority advised all its departments, as well as schools throughout the county, to use the cheaper service in all but the most urgent cases. Staff were told it would cost the authority £8,000 – £131,000 at 2018 prices – to the authority's postal bill if all mail was sent using the new service.

The county's biggest industrial employer, Hadley-based GKN Sankey, also said it would be mostly using the second-class service. The BBC, British Petroleum, Esso and Gillette told its staff to steer clear of the new service unless essential.

John Pegnall, the secretary of the National Chamber of Trades, said most were angry at what he called a "confidence trick" played on them by Mr Stonehouse. Just over a quarter of all letters posted on the first day were posted at the first-class 5d rate – well short of the Post Office target of 40-45 per cent. The initial take-up of the first-class rate has stayed roughly the same: in 2003 about 30 per cent of mail handled by the Post Office was being delivered first-class.

The cost of both services has increased considerably, though. Adjusted for inflation, the 4d and 5d stamps would cost 29p and 36p today, compared to the actual prices of 58p and 67p.

And what about the man who introduced the scheme? Well whatever the grumbles of business leaders, it was hardly John Stonehouse's biggest confidence trick. And it was certainly not his biggest PR disaster.

In 1976 Stonehouse, was jailed for seven years for fraud, having faked his own death and begun a new life in Australia with his mistress and secretary. His subsequent resignation from the Labour Party, and later as an MP, cost new prime minister Jim Callaghan his parliamentary majority within weeks of him taking office.

As if that were not enough, it emerged during his time in jail that Stonehouse was also a traitor who had been on the payroll of the Czech secret service since 1962, although it was decided not to be in the public interest to take any further action.

This certainly put a few complaints about the price of stamps into context.

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Musical stars launch one Elf of a panto at Arena

WEST End superstars David Essex and Martine McCutcheon brought festive magic to the West Midlands at the launch of the region's biggest pantomime.

They will star in Elf at Birmingham Arena this December, performing to tens of thousands of fans in the iconic Christmas show.

The duo lined up last Tuesday at the launch of the event and said they were looking forward to creating a Christmas spectacle for families.

Martine said: "I can't wait. When this opportunity came round I jumped at it. My son is four and he's just the perfect age for this. I'll be bringing him with me and we'll create memories that will last a lifetime.

Favourite

"The Midlands is such a supportive area and I've always loved being here. You get the feeling the audience are willing you to win, they want you to do well, so I'm really looking forward to coming back."

National treasure David Essex said Birmingham and Wolverhampton were two of his favourite cities and he had only happy memories of playing locally. He said: "I always have a great time here, whether it's The Grand or The Civic, in Wolverhampton, I've done both of those, or over in Birmingham. People are so warm and down to earth.

"The show itself will be great. I'm at the stage of my career where I can pick and choose. When I got the call about this I thought it would be nice for my family and my grandchildren so I said yes." The show starts on December 20 and ends on December 24 and tickets are available from the box office.

Martine McCutcheon, Tam Ryan as Buddy the Elf and David Essex set for the panto

£7m council homes boost

COUNCILLORS in Sandwell have approved nearly seven million pounds worth of investment in council houses.

Senior cabinet members gave the green light to two schemes to help keep the borough's council homes well-maintained and up-to-date. One scheme will see around £4.55 million being spent on maintaining 40 high-rise blocks. In recent years the council has spent around £226m on a programme of major high-rise improvements which saw thousands of tenants benefit from new windows, render and cladding, and roofing works.

Council leader, councillor Steve Eling said: "This latest investment means that this work can be carried to ensure that the blocks continue to remain in good condition for many years to come so that our tenants continue to live in safe, good quality homes."

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Fracture clinic art opens a window onto the world

BLACK Country art students have transformed the waiting room at a hospital's fracture clinic by creating a colourful mural on the wall.

The 'enchanting' handiwork, named Window on the World, has been painted by students from Sandwell College and can be found hanging at Sandwell Hospital.

The budding artists took on the challenge as part of their community arts module. It was co-ordinated by healthcare charity Kissing it Better.

The clinic had no natural light, so they designed a mural featuring large windows depicting scenes of the borough's multi-cultural communities.

Patient Wendy Kimberley, of Great Barr, said she was impressed with the artwork. She said: "It's a real improvement. Blank walls are so boring, so it's nice to see something different."

Sam Beck, matron for the clinic, said: "It's a really impressive piece of work that has brightened up the area. We wanted to create an environment for our patients which was uplifting and we feel like the students have done just that. We want to thank them and Kissing it Better for all their help in creating this mural."

Before embarking on the makeover, students gathered ideas and feedback from patients. They also made a Creative Activities Corner for the clinic's youngest patients.

Jessica Morera, one of the students who painted the mural, said: "This project will make a real difference to patients."

Jill Fraser, CEO of Kissing it Better, said: "Students have given families visiting Sandwell Hospital's fracture clinic the gift of an enchanting and uplifting waiting experience."

John McKeon, head of section for construction, Jackie Roxborough, of Kissing it Better, Lisa Comfort, ward sister, Helen Sweeting, art and design lecturer

Region's roads worst for jams

THE Black Country's gridlocked roads have officially been ranked as some of the worst in the country for traffic jams.

Figures from the Department for Transport show the chronic conditions faced by the region's drivers, who crawl along at an average speed of less than 20mph.

The data shows that for every mile on one of the Black Country's main road a car will be delayed by 71 seconds – more than 50 per cent higher than the average for the rest of the UK. Figures for Sandwell shows that a car will be delayed by 75 seconds for each mile travelled, meaning that for a daily commute of five miles a driver needs to add around six minutes to the journey to get to work on time.

Walsall showed an average delay of 19 minutes over a 20-mile trip, with motorists in the borough averaging 21mph. In Dudley the average delay per mile was 20 seconds, as drivers trundled along at an average 20mph.

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Commercial feature

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Staff and pupils at Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School are celebrating excellent sixth form results.

This year all Stuart Bathurst Sixth Form students enjoyed outstanding results, including an excellent pass rate in all A-level subjects with many students achieving A* and A grades in their chosen subjects and 100% pass rate in Level 3 BTEC Qualifications – ensuring that 100% of Stuart Bathurst students are ready for the challenges of university and the world of work.

Outstanding

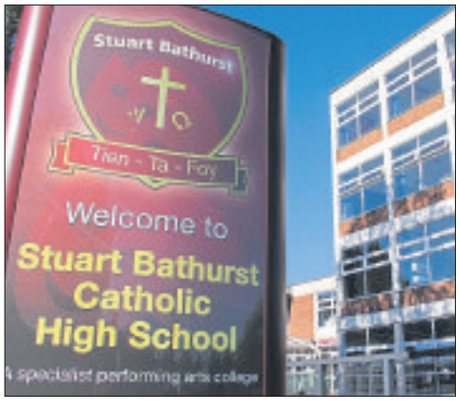
Outstanding results were seen again across key academic areas with computing achieving 100% A*-C and similarly physics enjoyed a 100% A*-C pass rate with one physics student going on to study aerospace systems.

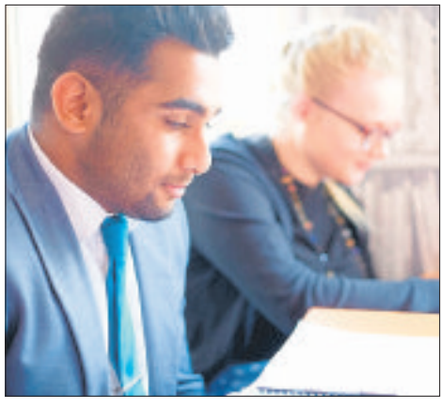
In other science disciplines, students were able to go on and study medicine, pharmacy and other health-related courses.

Mathematics enabled many students to secure A grades and results in modern languages including French and Polish were an outstanding 100% A*-C ensuring that students are able to compete for university places and employment on a global level.

Students studying history enjoyed 50% A*-B and 100% pass rate. As a faith school, Stuart Bathurst has consistently enjoyed outstanding results in RE, again producing 100% A*-C pass rate and 50% A*-B.

Vocational results were exceptional with the average grade being Distinction*/Merit. The Business, ICT and Media Department produced outstanding results securing 100% Distinction*/Merit grades. Performing Arts also secured 100% Distinction* in all three disciplines of acting, music and dance courses.





At Stuart Bathurst 'opportunities are given to allow each individual to further their knowledge and explore their choice of subject'

With 80% of students going on to university and 100% of the university cohort securing their places, students are regularly supported in Oxbridge applications. Students take up places at the best universities including Durham, King's College London, Brunel, Exeter, Lancaster and the University of Birmingham Medical School. Students pursuing training and employment also enjoyed 100% placement success.

Assistant Head Teacher Mrs Jordan explained: "We take great pride in our academic standards and quality of teaching.

"Opportunities are given to allow each individual to further their knowledge and explore their choice of subject. Specialist teachers have been secured in all subject areas, allowing us to offer the broadest curriculum."

Students benefit from the moral guidance and pastoral support as displayed in the Catholic ethos of the school. This ethos permeates every lesson and activity, encouraging students to become honest and reliable adults with a strong moral commitment in their work and behaviour.

Students have access to rich resources, staff expertise and support. The well-being of students is a priority for staff and they believe that its success depends on strong links between school and home and a harmonious relationship that is essential for the overall happiness and performance of all students.

Sixth form students at Stuart Bathurst are encouraged to think positively and take responsibility for their own actions and are actively guided to think of others and explore ways of helping within the school and local community.

This voluntary contribution enables students to develop leadership and organisational qualities with a wider understanding of others – essential skills for higher education and future employment. Students develop their potential whether in the field of medicine, science, engineering, technology and mathematics right through to sport and drama. The values that teachers inculcate in their students are such that they are enabled to mature and develop as upright and conscientious adults ready to achieve at the highest level.

Stuart Bathurst warmly invites you to visit their school and apply for a place in their heavily over-subscribed sixth form and continue your learning journey as part of a family-orientated, friendly and successful sixth form.

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ELO saying hello to Jeff's home crowd

Birmingham rock legend Jeff Lynne will return to his home city for a run of three shows at the city centre's Arena on October 10, 12 and 13.

Jeff Lynne has breathed new life into his band in recent years, since playing for Children In Need in 2013. He returned to live action the following year and in 2015 he released his first new music in 14 years, Alone in the Universe, which was his band's 13th album and earned a platinum disc after reaching the UK top five.

ELO had previously sold more than 50 million records worldwide and enjoyed huge success during the 1970s and 1980s when they enjoyed 20 top 20 UK hits plus 15 hits on the US Billboard Hot 100.

Lynne was blown away by the reaction when ELO played Hyde Park in 2014 – a show that sold out in 15 minutes.

Within a year, Lynne's ELO had played at the Grammy Awards for the first time, performing Evil Woman and Mr Blue Sky, and in summer 2016 the band played the Pyramid Stage at the Glastonbury Festival.

Last year Lynne's ELO played Wembley Stadium, having been inducted into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

"I was a little worried about Wembley," said Jeff. "But our fans are the best because they not only showed up, they sang along with all their hearts.

"I will never forget standing on stage, looking at that audience and hearing the sound of 60,000 of them singing my tunes – and sounding great, I might add."

Stand-up comic Josh Pugh in action

Feeling free to laugh

Birmingham Comedy Festival returns next week with a line-up including Ab Fab's Joanna Lumley, Rich Hall, Jimeoin, James Acaster, Tom Binns, Robin Ince and lots more.

Established in 2001, the annual festival has welcomed some of the biggest names in stand-up comedy and was set up to highlight the city's vibrant, but then largely unsung, comedy scene.

The 2018 festival kicks off with the EG Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking Talent Award 2018 at the Glee Club tomorrow (Friday). Competing are West Bromwich's Laura Monmoth, Brummie NHS worker Sham Zaman, Hall Green duo Good Kids (teachers Kieran Ahern and Tom Dowling), Stoke's Phil Carr and Staffs comic Adam Beardsmore.

Also returning are the festival's popular Free Half-Dayers on successive Sundays (October 7 and 14) featuring 16 Edinburgh Fringe style one-hour shows – it's like a festival within the festival. The events take place at Cherry Reds and The Victoria pub from 1.15pm, both on John Bright Street, near Grand Central.

Events this Sunday include a revival of 1960s radio show Round The Horne, plus Good Kids, Lindsey Santoro and Aaeron Twitchen, as well as Dudley's Danndy Clives, Tom Ham, Alex Hylton, Jay Handley and Star Trek devotee Rik Carranza. The following Sunday features The Elvis Dead creator Rob Kemp with his new show, comedy troupe Fat Penguin Improv, Coronation Street's Gareth Berliner, plus Josh Pugh and Phil Pagett's Knowledge Club, among others.

See www.bhamcomfest.co.uk for more details.

Rock and reggae on gig agenda

Reggae veteran Toots Hibbert brings his Maytals to Digbeth's O2 Institute on Wednesday (Oct 10).

Toots and the Maytals were formed in 1960s Jamaica and helped coin the name reggae with their 1968 ska hit Do the Reggay. Their hits include Bam Bam, Monkey Man, 54-46 That's My Number, Pressure Drop and Funky Kingston.

Tomorrow (Friday), The Coral are at the Institute following the release of new album Move Through The Dawn. That's the same night London quartet Stereo Honey play the Sunflower Lounge in Brum city centre. Over in Kings Heath, ex-member of The Beautiful South, Alison Wheeler, sings their songs as part of The South at the Hare & Hounds.

Following Genesis guitarist Steve Hackett's sold out show at Symphony Hall tomorrow, a Genesis Extravaganza is staged by The Musical Box at the same venue on Saturday. Stourbridge heavy metal heroes Diamond Head rock the Robin in Bilston on Saturday and Black Country blues queen, Joanne Shaw Taylor, has sold out her homecoming show at the Robin on Sunday.

Scottish trio Fatherson, who have released new album Sum Of All Your Parts, play the Sunflower Lounge on Saturday.

Sunday sees Californian pop-punk band The Story So Far at the Institute. Former Spandau Ballet singer Tony Hadley croons at Symphony Hall on Monday.

On the tribute scene, Whole Lotta DC play the Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, on Saturday and Black Country Beatles are at the Robin next Friday (Oct 12).

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ANDRÉ RIEU
at the Echo Arena, Liverpool

Departing Friday 14 Dec

Violin master André Rieu has announced a new UK 2018 tour including a date at the Echo Arena in Liverpool! See the 'King of Waltz' perform with his 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra where he will play songs from his repertoire alongside Christmas carols.

Your break includes
- ✔ Return coach travel from Walsall & Wolverhampton
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Ideal venue for a celebration

The owners at Vujon Classic Indian Restaurant would like to welcome all old and new customers to come and try the award-winning food, which is cooked fresh to order using the finest Indian spices and freshly local ingredients.

A spokesman said: "We also take care, in our takeaway food, to ensure you will receive the same standard that is served in the restaurant.

"We pride ourselves on healthy eating here at Vujon and all our dishes are cooked with no artificial colours or food additives used in our dishes and all our spices that we use are freshly ground in our kitchen."

The restaurant has been decorated to a high modern standard to ensure that all customers have a nice environment to enjoy their meal.

If you are looking for a venue to celebrate your special occasion then look no further than Vujon, staff will cater for all occasions including birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and any other events including business conferences.

The spokesman added: "We look forward to welcoming all our customers old and new here at Vujon."

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AT YOUR LEISURE

Jilted John – then and now

'Ere we go... 2... 3... 40! Jilted John has returned

To celebrate Jilted John's 40th anniversary and relive the summer of '78 that saw millions chanting 'Gordon is a moron', actor and musician Graham Fellows is recreating his first comic creation.

He is going on tour with a band in tow and brings the 'Ere We Go 2... 3... 40!! show to Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Friday, October 12, on what will be the one-hit-wonder's first tour. The punk comedy classic about John's dismal love life was voted Best One Hit Wonder of All Time by listeners to Steve Lamacq's 6 Music show, and will be performed alongside other favourites from the True Love Stories album.

Fellows was a drama student in Manchester when Jilted John took off. He later had a role in Coronation Street and created comedy character John Shuttleworth, who featured in several BBC Radio 4 series.

On his big hit, Graham says: "It was a series of happy accidents. I wrote the song in the canteen of my drama school. Someone showed me how to tune the guitar to an open chord to create that distinctive riff. I did a few demos. I went to see these hippies who had a record label and were releasing stuff by the Buzzcocks. They agreed to record it. The whole thing must have cost £200."

Support at Wolverhampton will come from another one hit wonder, John Otway, who charted in 1977 with Really Free.

Joanna says it's going to be absolutely fabulous

Joanna Lumley will bring her first ever live tour, It's All About Me, to Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

She will take the full-house audience through her hilarious and fascinating adventures, recounting some never-heard-before stories.

She will be joined on stage by friend and producer Clive Tulloh, who will put to Joanna questions from the audience.

Joanna said: "It's utterly thrilling to start planning the stories I can tell, and the rapture – and gratitude, to be fair – with which I shall greet the audiences. Nothing like this has come my way before, and I may have to be dragged off with a hook at the end of each show. I think it will be fabulous."

TV presenter, traveller, actor and all-round national treasure, Joanna first burst onto our screens as Purdey in The New Avengers in 1976, also creating an iconic hairstyle, going on to star in Sapphire & Steel.

Before that she had roles in Are You Being Served?, Coronation Street, in film as a victim of Christopher Lee's Dracula and as a Bond girl opposite George Lazenby in On Her Majesty's Secret Service.

She became a comedy legend with her Bafta-award winning creation Patsy Stone in Absolutely Fabulous opposite Jennifer Saunders.

From the swinging sixties up to her globe-trotting TV documentaries, Joanna will have many tales to tell in a gallop through almost 50 years in show business.

Joanna Lumley

Cirque Du Soleil stage latest egg-travaganza

Cirque Du Soleil, the world's biggest circus, is back in Birmingham this week when the international troupe bring Ovo to Arena Birmingham.

Ovo, meaning 'egg' in Portuguese, is a headlong rush into a colourful eco-system teeming with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and look for love in a non-stop riot of energy and movement.

Having entertained more than five million people worldwide since the show premiered in Montreal in 2009 as a Big Top show, Ovo embarks on a world tour with an even bigger production. It features 50 acrobats, trapeze artists and clowns in the bizarre, colourful costumes that Cirque is famous for.

The show opened last night (Wednesday) and continues until Sunday with 8pm performances plus matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets start from £52.75. The Birmingham performances will mark the last UK dates of the European tour.

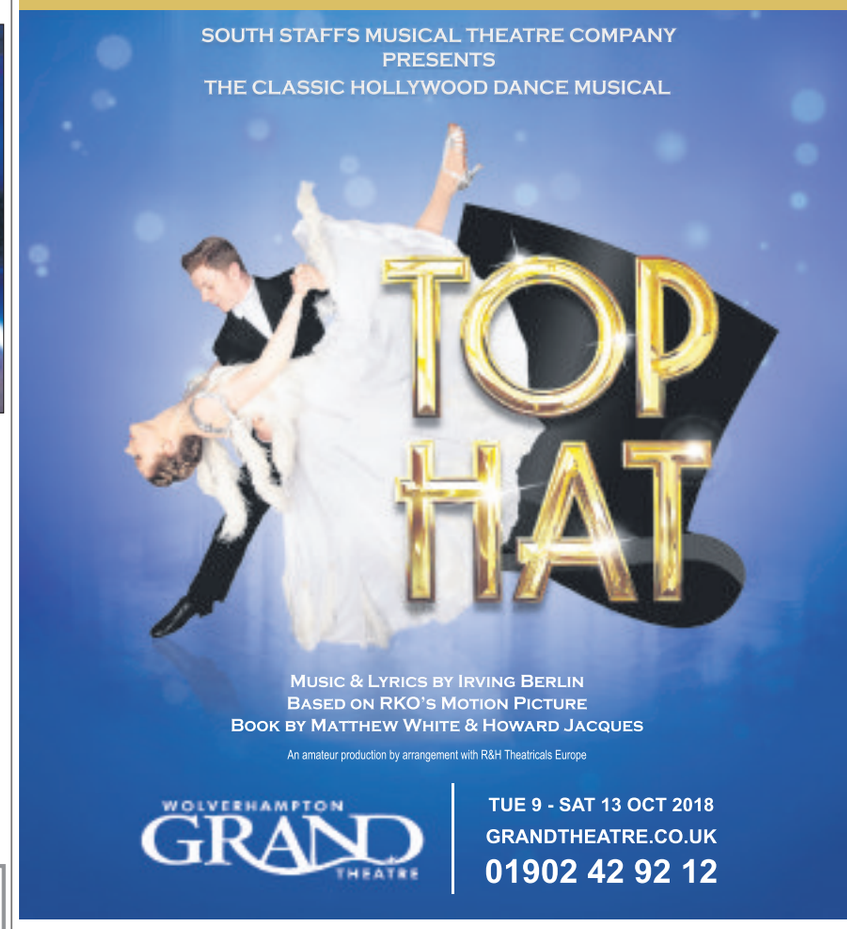
Guests have the write stuff for literature festival

Wolverhampton-born chef and author Nigel Slater and Wolverhampton-raised columnist and best-selling author Caitlin Moran feature in Birmingham Literature Festival.

Poet Liz Berry, from Sedgley, will appear in a National Poetry Day event today (Thursday) at 5.30pm in Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, to start the festival which runs until October 14. The new Poet Laureate and Young Poet Laureate for Birmingham will be announced at the event.

Caitlin Moran is in conversation with journalist Sali Hughes in the conservatoire's Bradshaw Hall tomorrow (Friday) and the event has sold out. Nigel Slater and Ravinder Bhogal will discuss their passion for food and writing on October 14 at The Studio, Birmingham Rep, at 3.30pm, introduced by Wulfrunian Sathnam Sanghera, best-selling author of The Boy with the Topknot. Other speakers at the festival will include comedian Alexei Sayle, musician Viv Albertine and broadcaster Lauren Laverne. See www.birminghamliteraturefestival.org

OPENS NEXT WEEK!



SATURDAY'S TV OCTOBER 6

CHOICE

Virtue Dixon

Troubles: The Life After (BBC2, 9.30pm)
An intimate account of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, told through the stories of people who lost loved ones during the conflict, which lasted more than 30 years. Contributors include Virtue Dixon, whose daughter Ruth was killed on her 24th birthday while celebrating at the Droppin' Well pub in Ballykelly in December 1982. An Irish National Liberation Army bomb brought the roof down, killing both civilians and British soldiers, and Virtue tells the story of the aftermath from her perspective.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Rugby League – Super League Playoffs Highlights. **2.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the pro-celebrity dance competition continues. Last week, the couples were given their first taste of the pressures of avoiding elimination, and the tension does not let up as the second round of the competition proper gets under way with Movie Week. As in previous competitions, the 14 duos are challenged to come up with routines that pay homage to Hollywood's greatest films, and as always, Shirley Ballas, Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli and Darcey Bussell are on hand to deliver their verdict on the stars' performances. Viewers at home then get a chance to have their say over which performers to back ahead of the results show tomorrow night.

8.35 Casualty. Jacob is shocked to find Omo, his schizophrenic mother, has arrived in the ED along with his son Blake. Elle goes to deal with Omo, who refuses to believe there is anything wrong and resists treatment, thinking that Elle is keeping her there on Jacob's orders. Elsewhere, Gem asks Ruby if she can swap bedrooms and is delighted when she agrees.

9.25 Killing Eve. Eve undertakes her first surveillance operation, and Villanelle is sent to England to eliminate a member of British Intelligence – without knowing who the target is.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents the latest Premier League highlights, including Tottenham Hotspur v Cardiff City at Wembley Stadium.

11.55 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game – New England Patriots v Indianapolis Colts at Gillette Stadium.

12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Top Class. (R) **7.00** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.30** All Over the Place: Europe. (R) **8.00** The Dengineers. (R) **8.30** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **9.00** Planet Dinosaur. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** The Animal's Guide to Britain. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **2.15** Giraffes: Africa's Gentle Giants. (R) **3.15** Saving Lives at Sea. (R) **4.15** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **4.45** Monkman & Seagull's Genius Guide to Britain. (R) **5.15** Flog It! (R) **5.50** Dad's Army. (R)

6.20 Film: Mr Holmes. (2015) An elderly Sherlock Holmes retires to a seaside farmhouse in the aftermath of the Second World War, and struggles to cope with his diminished faculties. Assisted by his housekeeper's inquisitive son, he tries to piece together the events of the one case that he failed to solve. Period mystery based on Mitch Cullin's novel A Slight Trick of the Mind, starring Ian McKellen.

8.00 A House Through Time. Documentary charting 180 years of British history as lived through by the successive inhabitants of a terraced house in Liverpool, from the 1840s to the present day. (R)

9.00 Live at the Apollo. Sitcom star and The Last Leg regular Josh Widdicombe welcomes Londoner Nathan Caton and Australian comic Celia Pacquola to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R)

9.30 Troubles: The Life After. An intimate account of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, told through the stories of people who lost loved ones during the conflict, which lasted more than 30 years.

10.50 Snowfall. New series. Hard-hitting drama about the beginnings of the crack epidemic in 1980s Los Angeles. Damson Idris, Carter Hudson and Emily Rios star.

11.35 Later Weekend with Jools Holland. Muse perform songs from their upcoming release Simulation Theory and Southampton-born Laurel makes her first appearance on the show, with music from her full-length debut Dogviolet.

12.40 Film: Department Q: The Absent One. (2014) **2.35** Trust. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: ToonMarty. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords! (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** The Island Strait. (R) **12.15** The X Factor. (R) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30 Film:** Johnny English Reborn. (2011) Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson. **3.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. (2007) The young wizard struggles to convince his fellow sorcerers that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned to life. When Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is ousted in favour of a sadistic replacement, Harry realises he must take matters into his own hands, uniting his fellow pupils to form a secret army and training them for the inevitable confrontation to come. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and Gary Oldman.

8.35 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary hosts the third and final Six Chair Challenge episode, in which the acts perform individually before the judges choose who will be selected for the next stage. However, even if a contender is selected to go through to the next stage, the judges are free to change their minds and ditch them if a more promising alternative comes along later in the show. However, this year each judge has a golden button, which guarantees one act in their line-up a place in the final six, meaning that once they have a seat, they cannot be swapped out.

9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by guests Gordon Ramsay, Fred Sirieix, Gino D'Acampo, Bear Grylls and Romesh Ranganathan.

10.55 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 Film: Twins. (1988)

1.05 Jackpot247. **3.00** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Live. **8.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Replay. **12.30** Car SOS. (R) **1.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. (R) **4.35** The People's Vet. **5.35** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge uncovers the story behind a dramatic night in 1976 when fishing trawler the Admiral Von Tromp went wildly off course in the North Sea, after setting off in Scarborough and running aground in Whitby, North Yorkshire, with the wreckage still visible on the shores of Saltwick Bay to this day. The massive remains of a First World War fort lead Tori to tales of love in the East Yorkshire hamlet of Kilnsea, and she learns the strange fate of two ships that were built in Hull but ended up on top of a mountain in Peru. (R)

8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns. Alice Roberts tells the story of Viking England by studying the history of York. She takes part in a Viking battle, meets the metal detectorists behind one of the UK's greatest archaeological finds and gets her hands on an almost 1,000-year-old poo. Aerial archaeologist Ben Robinson takes to the skies to see how the layout of York reflects its history. (R)

9.00 Film: Deadpool. (2016) Premiere. A fast-talking former mercenary develops terminal cancer, and agrees to be the subject in a shady experiment in the hope of a cure. The procedure leaves him horribly disfigured, but also possessing superhuman abilities which he immediately puts to use in a quest for revenge on the man responsible for his hideous appearance. Superhero comedy adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds.

11.10 Film: Conan the Barbarian. (2011) A warrior seeks revenge on the warlord who killed his father, and tries to stop him magically making himself all-powerful. Fantasy adventure, with Jason Momoa and Stephen Lang.

1.05 Experimental. (R) **2.00** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.05** Vet on the Hill.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.05** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.15** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.45** Live Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union. **5.15** World's Scariest Plane Landings. (R)

6.00 Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. Brent Council officers find a severely overcrowded house in north London, while Harrow Council try to help a family forced to sleep in one room due to leaks coming from the roof. (R)

6.45 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Stewart and Iain confront a woman in Cheshire refusing to pay a veterinary practice, claiming her dog was misdiagnosed. Paul and Max chase £5,000 owed by a banned company director. (R)

7.35 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! Gary and Paul try to recover a debt owed by a Kent publican – only to find themselves in the middle of a family at war – and Stewart and Elmor repossess a property in Liverpool. (R)

8.30 5 News Weekend.

8.35 Doomsday of Pompeii: Rome Unwrapped. Documentary about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, which spilled seven million tonnes of debris onto the city of Pompeii and sealed the fate of more than 1,000 people.

9.35 Eight Days That Made Rome: The Spartacus Revolt. Bettany Hughes recalls the moment that Spartacus, a Thracian gladiator fighting for the entertainment of the Romans, broke out of gladiator school and started a slave revolt. (R)

10.35 The Murder of Julius Caesar. Novelist Robert Harris and historian Neil Faulkner are among the experts examining the events surrounding the assassination of the Roman dictator. (R)

11.35 Helicopter Pursuits: Caught on Camera. A compilation of police helicopter chases taken from the first three series of the documentary. (R)

12.05 FIA World Rally Championship Highlights. **12.35** SuperCasino. **3.10** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Monkey Planet **8.00** Big Cats **9.00** Mystery Road **10.45** Inside No 9 **11.45** I'm Not In Love: The Story of 10cc **12.45** Top of the Pops: 1986 **1.45** Monkey Planet **2.45** Big Cats **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.15 The X Factor **12.15** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.20 Film:** You've Got Mail (1998) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30 Film:** You've Got Mail (1998) **3.40 Film:** Yes Man (2008) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** Yes Man (2008) **5.45 Film:** Twister (1996) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50 Film:** Twister (1996) **8.00 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **10.10** Celebrity Juice **10.55** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **1.50** The Cleveland Show **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
3.10 Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.10** On the Buses **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.00 Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage from Ascot, Newmarket and Redcar. **4.00** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **4.20** Pawn Stars **6.10** Mr Bean **7.20 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00 Film:** Green Zone (2010) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Green Zone (2010) **11.15 Film:** Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011) **1.50** The Americans **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.05 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.00** The Great British Bake Off **2.20** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **3.30 Film:** Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) **5.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) **11.00** Gogglebox **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.20** Celebs Go Dating **3.10** Gogglebox **4.05** How I Met Your Mother

Film4
11.00 The Boxtrolls (2014) **12.55** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **2.45** Hotel for Dogs (2009) **4.50** First Daughter (2004) **7.00** Taxi (2004) **9.00** The Wolf of Wall Street (2013) Martin Scorsese's fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **12.40** Troll Hunter (2010) **2.55** Close

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CHOICE

Jodie Whittaker

Doctor Who (BBC1, 6.45pm)
Jodie Whittaker makes her debut as the 13th Doctor, who crash lands following an explosive regeneration that has apparently destroyed the Tardis. She finds herself lost and alone in Sheffield, with no memory of who she used to be - and has an encounter with three seemingly ordinary people whose lives are about to change for ever. Bradley Walsh, Tosin Cole and Mandip Gill co-star as the Doctor's new companions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.35** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.35** Pointless Celebrities. **5.20** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Countryfile.

6.45 Doctor Who. New series. Jodie Whittaker makes her debut as the 13th Doctor, who is left with no memory following an explosive regeneration that has apparently destroyed the Tardis.

7.45 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Claudia Winkleman and Tess Daly reveal the next couple to leave the contest. Plus, a performance by Gladys Knight, singing her 1989 James Bond theme song Licence to Kill.

8.30 Still Open All Hours. David Jason stars as Granville in this follow-up to Open All Hours, now running the shop with his son Leroy after inheriting the business.

9.00 The Cry. Joanna finds herself at the centre of a media circus as the world's press descends on Wilde Bay to report on the disappearance. She becomes obsessed with people forming theories about her child's fate on the internet, adopting a fake identity to join in the discussion. As the police investigation continues, she and Alistair are forced to adopt different strategies for coping with the constant intrusion, a pressure which threatens to break their relationship.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, introducing highlights of Liverpool v Manchester City, Fulham v Arsenal and Southampton v Chelsea.

11.40 The Apprentice. The business-based reality show returns, with 16 candidates hoping to scoop a £250,000 investment from Alan Sugar, who sends the hopefuls to Malta for their first task. (R)

12.40 The Apprentice: You're Fired. (R) **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Coast. (R) **6.35** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **2.00** Alec Guinness: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.45 Film:** The Man in the White Suit. (1951) **4.05** Animal Park. (R) **4.15** Super Giant Animals. (R) **5.15** King Arthur's Britain: The Truth Unearthed. (R)

6.15 Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? Students face their mock GCSEs, while the head teachers of Erith and Townley announce a plan to bring both schools into the same trust. Last in the series. (R)

7.15 Philippines: Island Treasures. Mike Dilger and Rico Hizon go in search of rich culture and rare wildlife in one of the greatest biodiversity hotspots in the world – the Philippines.

8.00 The Mediterranean with Simon Reeve. New series. A journey around the region, examining the challenges currently facing the nations in the area. In the first episode, Simon visits Malta, southern Italy and Albania.

9.00 Last Chance Lawyer New York City. New series. Documentary following the exploits of criminal lawyer Howard Greenberg, who wages "war" against the US government from his office in Brooklyn.

9.45 Mock the Week. Topical comedy quiz show. (R)

10.15 No Activity. Stokes and Hendy are joined in the car by Carol's son Lachy. Meanwhile, Carol complains to a shocked April that she's been put on a shift with Lee.

10.40 No Activity. Carol is excited about her new colleague, while Stokes is trying out a new nap regime. Bernie is stunned to learn that Elizabeth has always wanted to be a stand-up comedian.

11.10 Billion Dollar Deals and How They Changed Your World. Jacques Peretti explores the deals that shaped the way people understand money, from the invention of PayPal to contactless transactions. (R)

12.10 Rugby League: Million Pound Game Highlights. **1.10** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords! (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Emmerdale 1918. (R) **10.00** This Morning – 30 Unforgettable Years. (R) **11.30** The X Factor. (R) **12.45** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** ITV Racing Live: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Coverage of the prestigious meeting from Longchamp. **3.30** Back to Mine. **4.00** The Big Audition. (R) **5.00** You've Been Framed! Gold. (R) **5.30** Queen of the World. (R)

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 5 Gold Rings. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which contestants compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor.

8.00 The X Factor. The live shows draw closer for the remaining 24 acts as they jet off to the Judges' Houses stage, in a bid to land a coveted place in the live shows.

9.00 Vanity Fair. Becky is left alone in the world and living in greatly reduced circumstances when Steyne arranges for Rawdon to be shipped overseas. Dobbin discovers that Amelia plans to remarry, a revelation that inspires him to finally confess his feelings for her – but he is not prepared for her reaction. The Sedley family takes a holiday in Germany, where they are unexpectedly reunited with Becky – who gets the chance to redeem a lifetime of selfishness by performing a single good deed on behalf of her dearest friend. Last in the series.

10.05 The Imitation Game. Alexander Armstrong hosts the panel show, with Rory Bremner, Debra Stephenson, Alistair McGowan and Ronni Ancona staging their own version of the Olympics.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure. (R)

12.05 Strangers. (R) **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. (R) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Live. **8.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Live Reaction. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Re-Run. **3.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Phil Spencer's Stately Homes. The property expert returns to look round more of Britain's stately homes, beginning at Longleat House in Wiltshire, home to the Viscount of Weymouth. Phil learns how Longleat has always been one of Britain's most innovative stately homes, and hears tales of lovesick ghosts and how the building was originally planned as an attempt to wow Queen Elizabeth I. (R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel down the River Nile from Luxor to Aswan. Tim has some misgivings about attempting such a daring journey, but is won over by Pru's desire for fresh adventure. They discover how travel along the river was vital to the ancient Egyptian civilisation, and discover how the first ever canals were constructed nearby to ferry building materials for the temple at Karnak. Along the way, they visit a Nubian village, purchase aphrodisiacs in a souk, and dance by moonlight.

9.00 Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls. Only seven celebrities remain on the island, and they have not eaten in days. They begin to regret the decision to bury the pig they accidentally killed instead of making a meal of it. Martin suffers an infected wound on his leg and fears he will not make it to the end of the series, but becomes determined to help his fellow castaways by leading a raft expedition in search of food.

10.00 The Circle. Series assessing the impact of social media, in which individuals from all walks of life compete in a popularity contest.

11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show, with Sean Lock and Greg Davies taking on Jon Richardson and Holly Walsh. (R)

12.00 Film: A Walk in the Woods. (2015) **1.55** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. (R) **2.20** Gillette World Sport. **2.45** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **3.15** Grand Designs New Zealand. (R) **4.10** Vet on the Hill. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Digby Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Rusty Rivets. (R) **7.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.10** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Pirata & Capitano. (R) **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.30** Floogals. (R) **9.50** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.05** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** The Wonderful World of Puppies. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Live FIA World Rally Championship. **1.30** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **2.00** Friends. (R) **2.30** Friends. (R) **3.00** Friends. (R) **3.30** Friends. (R) **4.00** Friends. (R) **4.30** Friends. (R) **5.00** Friends. (R) **5.30** Friends. (R)

6.00 Friends. Ross lets Rachel in on his most secret sexual fantasy, and Chandler gets involved with an old flame. (R)

6.30 Friends. Ross prepares to make an important speech at the museum, and invites the gang along for moral support – but soon regrets his decision. (R)

7.00 Inside the Chocolate Factory. The story of a business that started out making cocoa and drinking chocolate almost 200 years ago, eventually evolving into one of the most famous chocolate brands in the world. (R)

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Rolls-Royce: Dream Machines. The inside story of the engineering company, looking at how Charles Rolls and Henry Royce created the ultimate in luxury car brands. (R)

9.00 WW2 Wrecks: Draining the Ocean. Documentary exploring the undersea wreckage of Second World War vessels, using 3D reconstructions to reveal how they sank.

10.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights.

11.30 Film: Mr & Mrs Smith. (2005) Comedy adventure, with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

12.30 Access. **12.35 Film:** Mr & Mrs Smith. (2005) Concluded. **1.35** SuperCasino. **3.10** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Engineering Giants: Gas Rig Strip-Down **8.00** James May's Cars of the People **9.00** Cold War, Hot Jets **10.00** Feud: Bette and Joan **11.40** Wonders of the Great Barrier Reef with Iolo Williams **12.35** Treasures of Ancient Greece **1.35** Andre Previn at the BBC **2.35** James May's Cars of the People **3.35** Close

ITV2

12.15 You've Been Framed! Gold **1.15** The X Factor **2.30 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **3.30** FYI Daily **3.35 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **4.40 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.35 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25 Film:** Piranha (2010) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35 Film:** Piranha (2010) **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot **2.55 Film:** Columbo: Dagger of the Mind (1972) **4.55** Foyle's War **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.10** A Touch of Frost **3.00** Road to Avonlea **4.45** Murder, She Wrote **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

12.55 Pawn Stars **2.20 Film:** Bend of the River (1952) **3.20** FYI Daily **3.25 Film:** Bend of the River (1952) **4.15 Film:** Lawman (1971) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20 Film:** Lawman (1971) **6.10** Made in Britain **7.15 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.00 Film:** Passenger 57 (1992) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Passenger 57 (1992) **10.50 Film:** Death Wish 2 (1981) **11.50** FYI Daily **11.55 Film:** Death Wish 2 (1981) **12.40** The Avengers **1.45** Minder **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.55 The Goldbergs **2.55** The Big Bang Theory **6.50 Film:** The Three Musketeers (2011) **9.00** Krypton **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.10** Krypton **3.00** Rude Tube **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Cockleshell Heroes (1955) **1.05** Flight of the Navigator (1986) **2.50** Epic (2013) **4.55** Carry On Jack (1963) **6.55** Edward Scissorhands (1990) **9.00** Taken 3 (2014) **11.15** True Grit (2010) **1.25** Love, Rosie (2014) **3.35** Close

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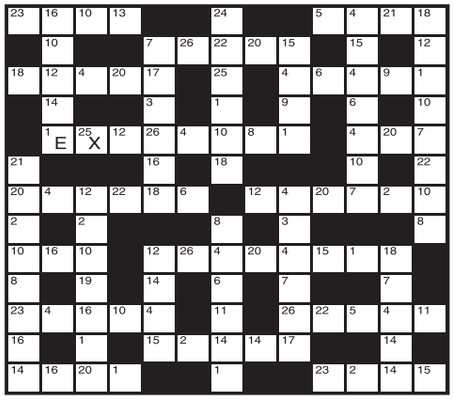
BRAIN GYM

No.500

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



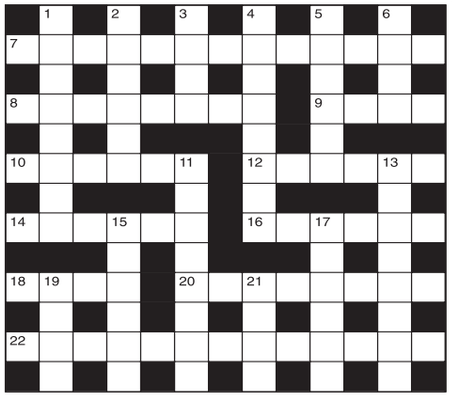
1 E	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25 X
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
K	T	N	O	H	Y	M	A	D	J	W	F	S
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	Q	G	U	C	R	I	X	B	E	V	L	P

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Order climbing down to be in unbroken line (6,7)
8. Disgusted leader is to command unruliness (8)
9. What cats and racing drivers have in common (4)
10. Ancient Greek coin which indicates its value? (6)
12. Take out cover when at home, certainly (6)
14. Accommodation for those inside (6)
16. Narrow-minded because needing fresh air? (6)
18. Cab obtained, thanks to team (4)
20. More than 1000 run because of error in newspaper (8)
22. Bulb production as opposed to heavy engineering? (5,8)

Down

1. Parson is one in large church (8)
2. News item about the left (6)
3. Fastener for breeding establishment (4)
4. Corresponding opening using expensive knights? (4,4)
5. For weighing parts of fish? (6)
6. Break up things in the kitchen (4)
11. Telephone chief for section of electricity supply system (4,4)
13. Petrol producer, for example, again takes showy ornaments (8)
15. Trivial insult (6)
17. Trouble for the United Nations and the others (6)
19. Since including team, things revolve round it (4)
21. One aspect of the team (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Ignominious (13)
8. Lees (8)
9. Kind (4)
10. Amuse (6)
12. Toboggan (6)
14. Improved (6)
16. Eatable (6)
18. Space (4)
20. Power (8)
22. Compliant (13)

Down

1. Vital cord (8)
2. Writer (6)
3. Small valley (4)
4. Aversion (8)
5. Cloak (6)
6. Smack (4)
11. Irritating (8)
13. Jelly-like substance (8)
15. Hoyden (6)
17. Kindle (6)
19. Formerly (4)
21. Impolite (4)

Sudoku

		9	7				3	4
	5			6	3			7
2		7						
	1				5	9		3
		8	2		1	6		
5		2	9				1	8
				1				2
8			3				6	
1	7				4	3		

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	1	7	8	2	6	5	3
2	5	7	3	4	6	9	8	1
8	3	6	9	1	5	4	2	7
3	2	8	4	7	9	5	1	6
7	4	9	5	6	1	8	3	2
6	1	5	2	3	8	7	9	4
9	6	2	1	5	7	3	4	8
5	8	4	6	2	3	1	7	9
1	7	3	8	9	4	2	6	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Curb; 8 Electorate; 9 Testable; 10 Soda; 12 Stupor; 14 Siding; 15 Skater; 17 Rushes; 18 Wren; 19 Tomahawk; 21 Call to arms; 22 Take. Down: 2 Undertaker; 3 Beat; 4 Member; 5 Athens; 6 Presides; 7 Beta; 11 Donkey-work; 13 Patently; 16 Ration; 17 Remark; 18 Wick; 20 Host.
QUICK - Across: 1 Tiff; 8 Exuberance; 9 Maternal; 10 Hook; 12 Punish; 14 Relent; 15 Bandit; 17 Perish; 18 Reel; 19 Ecstatic; 21 Pugnacious; 22 Oath. Down: 2 Immaculate; 3 Fete; 4 Quench; 5 Pedlar; 6 Bachelor; 7 Seek; 11 Omniscient; 13 Indolent; 16 Trench; 17 Pastor; 18 Rope; 20 Also.

Quiz

1. Who wrote the libretto for Stravinsky's opera The Rake's Progress?
2. What type of creature is an argonaut?
3. What may be real, complex or rational?
4. For what is the panther another name?
5. On which river is Indianapolis?
6. In which country is Sucre?
7. What is the name of the sun's faint halo, visible at solar eclipses?
8. In which Irish county are Macgillycuddy's Reeks?
9. What is fescue?
10. Which best-selling thriller writer died in February 1995?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Robert Bolt; 2 An eel; 3 Orestes; 4 Liverpool; 5 Peter Pan; 6 Ocean water; 7 Shark; 8 Mariner 2; 9 Klapka; 10 New York.

Niner: INTERPLAY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

453467 gives a colour,
4517 gives a second colour,
9287 gives colour.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Good sized three bedroomed semi with a garden

A good sized three-bedroomed semi-detached house, 6 Langley Road, Oldbury, comes with a private established rear garden.

Being in a convenient location, within walking distance of Langley Green Railway Station, it is for sale through Tom Giles & Co at £185,000.

Langley High Street is also within walking distance. There are also schools within the area for all age groups.

This home has double glazing and central heating throughout.

It is stood setback from the roadside behind a foregarden with brick boundary wall and footpath approach.

A porch and composite door lead to the reception hall.

The front sitting room has a bay window, cast iron fireplace surround with a fitted gas fire on tiled hearth, a ceiling rose, coving and double doors opening to rear sitting room.

This has a wooden feature fireplace surround with a fitted gas fire on a tiled hearth, picture rail, and French doors within a bay to the rear garden.

There is also a cellar and a lobby and a PVCu double glazed door to the garden.

The kitchen has base units and wall cupboards in a cream finish with contrasting melamine working surfaces providing worktop, a double base unit and appliance space for a 'Smeg' range cooker with a tiled splash-back.

There is also a utility with appliance space for a washing machine and a base unit, ceramic tiled flooring and an obscure double glazed window to side.

The bathroom has a white suite in half height wood panelling providing a low flush WC, pedestal wash hand basin and roll top bath with a shower mixer off pillar taps. It also has ceramic tiled flooring, halogen down-lighters, traditional heated towel rail and obscure double glazed window.

A staircase leads from the reception hall to first floor landing with obscure double glazed window to rear.

OLDBURY £185,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Tom Giles & Co
TEL: 0121 522 6171
EMAIL: general@tomgiles.net

KEY FEATURES

- Good sized semi-detached
- Popular & convenient location
- 3 bedrooms
- Established rear garden
- Walking distance to train station

Three-bedroom home is situated in popular spot

OLDBURY
£139,950

Tom Giles Estate Agents are pleased to present this three-bedroomed mid-terraced property at 65 Princess Road, Oldbury, on sale for £139,950.

The residence is in a popular and convenient location, close to all local amenities. The property has the benefit of double glazing and gas central heating.

Standing set back from the roadside behind a paved driveway with parking for one vehicle and a wrought iron gate, the property features side steps to side shared tunnel entry and a PVCu double glazed door to the porch. The lounge features a wall-mounted gas fire, a ceiling rose, a gas meter cupboard, a central heating radiator and a double glazed bay window. The dining kitchen features a fireplace with a fitted gas fire.

Contact Tom Giles Estate Agents on 0121 552 6171.

Penthouse apartment offers great city living

BIRMINGHAM
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If you're after penthouse living in the city, then this stunning two-bedroomed apartment in Europa, Sherborne Street, Birmingham City Centre, could be the dream home for you!

Being for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at offers over £299,950, this superb top floor penthouse has canal views, and has been finished to the highest standard.

Situated in the highly sought-after Jupiter developments, it has a wealth of amenities on its doorstep.

There is lift gives access from street level and underground parking.

There is a well maintained communal area.

Contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

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Period property with charm is now updated

This charming four-bedroomed semi-detached property in Moat Road, Oldbury, has been modernised and improved by the current owners, but remains in keeping with its Edwardian period.

It is for sale through Tom Giles Estate Agents at offers over £350,000.

It has good sized accommodation in a sought-after location with double glazing and gas central heating.

OLDBURY
£350,000

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance vestibule, a reception hall, a cellarette, a front sitting room, a rear sitting room, a cloakroom/WC, a kitchen, four bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside are gardens, a detached double garage and additional secure parking at the rear.

To book that all important viewing, call Tom Giles on 0121 552 6171 or visit www.tomgilesandco.co.uk

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1 1 1
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9 Local Information

Public Notices

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LICENSING ACT 2003

I Justin Sanchez of Kulkula Village Shop 14 Market Place Tipton DY4 7AR

Hereby give notice I have applied under S17 Licensing and in accordance with S12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises, namely

For the Sale of Alcohol Mon – Sun 06:00 – 00:00

Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to Trading Standards and Licensing Adult Social care, Health and wellbeing, Sandwell Council House PO Box 2372 OldburyB69 3BS ,

email: licensing_team@sandwell.gov.uk not later than 23 Oct 2018. A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

PMB LICENSING
(Authorised Agents)

Dated 26th Aug 2018

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence

I Mr Seyed Amir hereby give notice that an application was made to **Sandwell MBC** on the 25th September 2018 for the Grant of a **Variation to** a Premises Licence to operate a premises at: **Pizza Chef, 20A Great Bridge, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 7HA**, from which the following licensable activities are proposed: **Retail sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises from 16:30 to 00:30am Monday to Thursday, 15:00 to 01:30 Friday & Saturday, and 16:00 to 00:30 Sundays. Late Night Refreshment Sunday to Thursday 23:00 to 00:30**
Details of the application may be inspected, free of charge, at **Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Trading Standards and Licensing, Adult Social care, Health and wellbeing, Sandwell Council House, PO Box 2372, B69 3BS or on line at www.sandwell.gov.uk**
Any interested party or Responsible Authority may make representations to the Licensing Section within 28 Consecutive Days of the day of application was made as detailed above. The last day for representations being the 23/10/2018
It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and a person may be liable on summary conviction of an unlimited fine.
24/09/2018

Re: Thomas Packer deceased
William Packer deceased
John Rogers deceased
Elizabeth Cholditch deceased
Elizabeth Davis deceased
Samuel Stephens Cholditch deceased
Elizabeth Eleanor Sparham deceased
Vincent Cholditch Davis deceased
Lizzie Beames Dundass deceased
Michael Alfred Dundass deceased
William Beddard Davis deceased
Beatrice Mary Davis deceased
Edna Mary Davis deceased
Samuel Stanley Skelland deceased
Ethel Annie Cholditch Davis deceased
George Arthur Southwell deceased
Herbert Arthur Southwell deceased
Arthur William Sparham deceased
John Cholditch deceased
Charles Vizard deceased
Mr W. A. Moull deceased
Mr and Mrs Beddard deceased
And re the property: Yorkley Court Estate, Yorkley, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 4TZ

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 Section 27 NOTICE IS GIVEN that all creditors (secured or unsecured) or persons claiming to have a legal or beneficial interest in the property Yorkley Court Estate or to be the executor (whether directly or by a chain of representation) or the administrator of or to be a creditor of (secured or unsecured) or claiming to be beneficially interested in any of the estates of: 1. Thomas Packer of Littledean, Gloucestershire, who died on 22 September 1821 and whose will was proved in the Gloucester District Probate Registry on 30 April 1822 by Elizabeth Packer. 2. William Packer born 16 January 1785 in Littledean, Gloucestershire who died on 20 January 1850 in Woolaston, Gloucestershire. 3. John Rogers born 12 August 1812 in Newland, Gloucestershire. 4. Elizabeth Cholditch (born Packer) born 5 January 1790 in Littledean, Gloucestershire who died on 1863 in Penkridge, Staffordshire. 5. Elizabeth Davis (born Cholditch) born 16 July 1826 in Lydney, Gloucestershire and died in 1871 in West Bromwich Staffordshire. 6. Sarah Sparham (born Cholditch) born 24 February 1829 in Lydney, Gloucestershire and died in 1882 in Gravesend, Essex. 7. Samuel Stephens Cholditch born 12 August 1802 in Newent, Gloucestershire and died 26 March 1886 in Brewood, Staffordshire 8. Elizabeth Eleanor Sparham born 1853 in Brewood, Staffordshire and died 8 February 1910 in Southend, Essex. Administration (with Will) granted on 4 March 1910 to Arthur William Sparham. 9. Vincent Cholditch Davis born in 1853 in Walsall, Staffordshire and died on 28 November 1938 in Bootle Lancashire. 10. Lizzie Beames Dundass (born Davis, first married name Webster) born in 1852 in Walsall. 11. Michael Alfred Dundass born 1852. 12. William Beddard Davis born 20 September 1885 in St Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic (Francisci Xavarii) and died 14 February 1961 in Liverpool. 13. Beatrice Mary Davis (born Edwards) born 1883 in Liverpool. 14. Edna Mary Davis born 26 May 1909 in Liverpool died 3 January 1983 in Warrington. 15. Samuel Stanley Skelland born 1910 in West Derby and died 1963 in Liverpool South, Lancashire. 16. Ethel Annie Cholditch Davis born 20 September 1891 in Liverpool and died 31 January 1953 in Hunstanton, Norfolk. 17. George Arthur Southwell born 1882 in Wisbeach, Norfolk died 1 January 1962 in Wisbeach, a grant of letters of administration in the District Probate Registry of Peterborough of the High Court of Justice on 29 January 1962 to Herbert Arthur Southwell of Walton Lane, Marshland St James, Norfolk. 18. Herbert Arthur Southwell born 23 January 1920 of Walton Lane, Marshland St James, Norfolk who may have died in Scotland on 9 April 2003. 19. Arthur William Sparham (previously named Nelson Muirhead Fellingham) born in 1861 in Hackney London of 14 Hastings Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex and died 15 December 1933 in Rochford whose will dated 12 May 1933 was proved by his widow Ada Sparham in the Principal Probate Registry of the High Court of Justice. 20. Ada Sparham (born Fellingham) born in 1877 in Shoeburyness, Essex and lived at 14 Hastings Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex and died in 1962 in Southend, Essex. 21. John Cholditch of Sandleford, Alum Chine-road, Westbourne, Bournemouth died 28 April 1911 whose will was proved in the Principal Probate Registry of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice on 8 July 1911 by Mary Anne Cholditch and Mary Jane Cross. 22. Charles Vizard of Vizard & Wenden Solicitors in 1843 23. The estate of Mr W. A Moull and Mrs Moull represented by Lewis & Quennell Solicitors in about 1885 to 1906. 24. Mr and Mrs Beddard represented by Walker & Son solicitors of Wolverhampton in 1886. are required to send particulars in writing to Mr M. Coughlan at Langley Wellington Solicitors of Royal House, 60 Bruton Way, Gloucester GL1 1EP quoting reference MC / MS / B5031.1 on or before 14th December 2018 after which date the trusts concerning the proceeds of sale of Yorkley Court Estate may be distributed on terms to be determined in proceedings brought by Richard Martin Tolson and Philip Montague Day under claim number E30BS607 in the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division Bristol District Registry among the persons entitled to them having regard only to the claims of which they have had notice and they shall not be liable for the assets of each of the above deceased or any part of them or any part of the net proceeds of sale of Yorkley Court Estate so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they then have not had notice.
Dated: 1 October 2018 *T540500*

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Crosswells Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Crosswells Road, Oldbury between Western Road and Thompson Road. Traffic will be diverted via Station Road, Park Lane, Park Street, Churchbridge, Oldbury Ringway, Birmingham Road, Oldbury Road, Fenton Street, St Paul's Road, Cemetery Road, Rood End Road, Vicarage Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 07/10/18, effective from 07/10/18. Purpose – remedial works by Balfour Beatty for Cadent Gas.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Sycamore Road, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Sycamore Road, Smethwick between Grange Road and Wilson Road. Traffic will be diverted via Dorset Road, Willow Avenue, Sandon Road, Bearwood Road, Waterloo Road, Grange Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 10/10/2018, effective from 08/10/18. Purpose – works to install flood monitoring equipment by Crusader for Severn Trent Water.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Wattle Road, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 has made an Order to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Wattle Road between Claypit Lane and New Road. Traffic will be diverted via New Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 26/10/2018, effective from 08/10/18. Purpose – works to re-surface the carriageway and re-kerb the footway by Friel Construction for Kier Living Ltd.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration & Growth
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.
This is a major application.

DC/18/62205	Bromford	Land At Langley Green Road/Mill Lane Oldbury	Demolition of building and proposed residential development of 47 dwellings with associated works.

This is a major application.

DC/18/62210	Aldi Stores Limited	Former Staples Limited (Office Outlet) Tildasley Street West Bromwich B70 9SJ	Proposed change of use to supermarket (Class A1), external alterations including new store access, loading bay extension, trolley bay canopy, and alterations to car park and landscaping.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.
AMY HARHOFF, Director of Regeneration & Growth

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Water Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicle from proceeding via Water Street, West Bromwich (entire length). The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 29/10/18 effective from 14/10/18. No diversion route will be signed. Purpose – works to install new electricity cables by Western Power Distribution.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Pool Lane, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018 intends to temporarily prohibit vehicles from proceeding along Pool Lane, Oldbury between Victoria Mews and Mallard Drive. Traffic will be diverted via Titford Road, Wolverhampton Road, Causeway Green Road and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 14/10/2018, effective from 14/10/18. Purpose – works to facilitate structural examination of Railway Bridge by Centurion TM for Network Rail.

10 Personals

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Eye-catching design, crossover utility and a zero-emissions powertrain

Driving range of up to 301 miles

The all-new Kia e-Niro will offer owners a driving range of up to 301 miles (485 kilometres)* on a single charge when it goes on-sale across Europe at the end of this year.

The e-Niro, Kia's first fully-electric crossover utility vehicle, will be revealed in European specification at the 2018 Paris Motor Show next week, before sales begin later this year.

European homologation on the WLTP combined cycle has confirmed the 301 range for the e-Niro when powered by the high-capacity 64 kWh lithium-ion polymer battery.

On the WLTP 'urban' test cycle, the e-Niro is capable of travelling for up to 382 miles (615 km) – further than many petrol cars. Plugged into a 100 kW fast charger, it takes only 54 minutes to recharge the e-Niro's 64 kWh battery to 80 per cent. The car's standard 39.2 kWh power pack has also been rated, offering drivers up to 193 miles (312 km) of zero-emissions motoring on a full charge (WLTP combined cycle).

The e-Niro will be one of the most capable electric vehicles when sales commence, combining driving enjoyment, eye-catching design, crossover utility and a zero-emissions powertrain. The new e-Niro joins existing Hybrid and Plug-in Hybrid variants of the Niro – of which more than 200,000 have sold globally since its introduction in 2016. To date, Europe has accounted for more than 65,000 sales of the hybrid crossover.

Models equipped with the long-distance 64 kWh battery pack are paired with a 150 kW (204 ps) motor, producing 395 Nm torque, enabling the e-Niro to accelerate from 0-to-100 kph in just 7.8 seconds. The standard 39.2 kWh battery pack is matched to a 100 kW (136 ps) motor, also producing 395 Nm torque, and accelerating to 100 kph from a standstill in 9.8 seconds. Like the Niro Hybrid and Plug-in Hybrid variants, the e-Niro is front-wheel drive.

The e-Niro provides owners with a range of technologies to enhance battery efficiency and improve the car's range, including regenerative braking, Coasting Guide Control (CGC), and Predictive Energy Control (PEC). The technologies enable drivers to recharge the battery pack and maximise vehicle range when coasting or braking. CGC and PEC are linked to the navigation system and account for upcoming corners and topographic changes, suggesting when drivers could coast in order to harvest additional energy.

The e-Niro will be covered by Kia's industry-leading 7-Year, 100,000-miles warranty as standard. The warranty also covers the battery pack and electric motor. Full UK specification, pricing and on-sale date will be announced in due course.

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5-dr, Black, 58,000 miles £11,150

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5-dr, Black Sapphire, 64,397 miles £3,495

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5-dr Auto Estate, White, 24,400 miles £12,495

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CARS WANTED FOR CASH

Facelifted CX-3 still a strong contender

By Tom Wiltshire

Mazda has a habit of regularly updating its cars with small refinements and improvements, rather than saving them all for a big update every few years. Such is the way with the 2018 CX-3 compact crossover, which you might find difficult to tell apart from its predecessor.

Small changes aside, it's the same recipe we've come to appreciate from Mazda – good looks, a straightforward interior, smooth, naturally-aspirated petrol engines and excellent driving manners.

Oddly enough given the current anti-diesel rhetoric, one of the largest changes for the updated CX-3 is the addition of a new 1.8-litre oil-burner. Mazda UK admits it's unlikely to be in huge demand, though – the outgoing 1.5 only accounted for 20 per cent of sales.

Elsewhere, changes are discreet to say the least. There's a revised front grille and some new LED taillights, while the interior sees a redesigned centre console and some new fabric trim.

Of the three engines on offer, it's the base unit that impresses the most. The naturally-aspirated, 119bhp 2.0-litre is smooth and refined around town and mated to a slick six-speed manual it's also good fun to wring out. The payoff for going naturally aspirated is that official fuel economy results tend to be far closer to reality – the claimed 45.5mpg is certainly achievable.

Also on offer is a 148bhp version of the same engine and the new diesel is impressively economical. Four-wheel drive is an option for all engines, while both petrols can also be had with a six-speed automatic gearbox.

Four-wheel drive is an option for all engines

Mazda is somewhat like Ford – both brands are skilled at making ordinary cars with exceptional handling. While the Focus pips the 3 and the Fiesta the 2, Mazda's CX-3 certainly has the Ford Ecosport licked when it comes to handling in the compact crossover segment. The CX-3's steering is sharp and accurate, and front-end grip inspires more confidence than many other cars in this class. There's not a huge ride penalty, either.

Mazda's tweaked the suspension to give the car a more grown-up feel, but the slightly softer edge might not be to your taste – it soaks up bumps well but tends to bounce over larger crests in the road surface.

It's a comfortable cruiser though, despite rather a lot of wind roar from those large side mirrors. Much like the old CX-3, and that's no bad thing. Mazda's family face sits well on the front of this car, and the overall effect of a smaller CX-5 is quite handsome.

The CX-3's updated grille is flanked by slim LED headlights, mirrored in the distinctive new LED tail lights. The whole effect is lifted further by the addition of Mazda's Soul Red Crystal paint – one of the best colours available on cars today, and an option box well worth ticking.

The CX-3's updated grille is flanked by slim LED headlights, mirrored in the distinctive new LED tail lights

The CX-3 lifts its interior from the Mazda 2, so there's a pleasantly driver-focused aspect to the cabin with a wonderfully straightforward gauge cluster. There are rather a lot of different materials on show, of varying quality – we're not the biggest fans of the suede stripe across the dash on certain models, but other aspects such as the solid metal surrounds to the air vents feel solid and premium.

The redesigned centre console drops the manual handbrake for an electric one, but as a side effect the controller for Mazda's infotainment system moves further forward to a far more comfortable location. The system itself is decent, but we'd suggest adding Apple Carplay and Android Auto to improve it further – an optional, dealer-fit extra.

There's a decent amount of space on offer, but the CX-3 is still more cramped for rear occupants than some rivals such as the Skoda Karoq.

All CX-3s are well equipped – Mazda's options list rarely extends further than the paint colour. Trim levels start out with SE Nav+, which brings air-con, cruise control, keyless start and Mazda's infotainment system.

SE-L Nav+, meanwhile adds rear parking sensors, climate control and some extra safety kit. Top-spec Sport Nav adds leather, a Bose surround-sound system and keyless entry, plus LED headlights.

It doesn't come cheap – the CX-3 starts from £18,995, where a basic Seat Arona can be had from less than £17,000.

For keen drivers, the Mazda CX-3 should still be on the compact crossover shortlist – it's a great little car to drive in and out of the city. Potential buyers should take a good test drive to make sure the character of the naturally-aspirated engine suits them, though – and if you're not too worried about premium equipment, there is better value to be found elsewhere.

But for the most part this is an excellent car with plenty going for it.

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Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for the models shown: Urban 38.7 (7.3) – 57.6 (4.9), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) – 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.1 (6.0) – 57.6 (5.5), CO_2 emissions 132g/km – 120g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. The NEDC Equivalent data presented here is for limited comparison purposes only and cannot be compared with other test data such as NEDC or WLTP. For more information about WLTP please refer to kia.com/uk. Models shown: Picanto 'X-line S' 1.25 83bhp 5-speed manual at £14,470 including optional chargeable Clear White paint at £250, Stonic '4' 1.0 T-GDi 118bhp 6-speed manual ISG at £20,200 including premium Blaze Red with Black roof paint. New Sportage 'GT-Line S' 1.6 CRDi 134bhp 2WD 7-speed Auto DCT ISG at £31,840 including optional chargeable Fusion White paint. All-New Ceed 'First Edition' 5dr 1.4 T-GDi 138bhp 6-speed manual ISG at £25,750 including optional Infra-Red paint. Specification varies across the range and is subject to change without notice. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty.

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, October 4, 2018

Fleet operators will be able to view data directly

Ford Data Services solutions for European fleet customers

By Sharon Walters

Ford is to bring two new connected vehicle solutions to European fleet customers early next year.

Through its Ford Commercial Solutions (FCS) unit, Ford is developing a range of connected vehicle solutions to enable fleet customers to manage their vehicles more easily and conveniently, helping them to run their business more efficiently.

Ford Telematics will provide fleet operators with the ability to view data from connected Ford vehicles in their fleet through the Ford Telematics application. Using information collected from the vehicle, an intuitive web-based portal provides useful insights to help improve fleet efficiency and driver safety, enabling fleet owners, managers and employees to view fleets in near real-time and gain rapid insights into fleet performance.

Ford recognises that some larger fleets may wish to work with their own in-house or third-party system providers to develop bespoke vehicle solutions to meet their needs. That is why Ford has designed Ford Data Services, which gives large company fleets, telematics service providers and fleet management companies direct access to valuable OEM-grade vehicle data.

Taking advantage of Ford vehicles' build-in modem,

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Ford Data Services transfers vehicle data directly from the vehicle to the cloud without the need for additional third-party hardware, management or installation downtime. From there, the vehicle data is relayed to the fleet's internal IT system or third-party provider.

"Today's fleets are under huge pressure to deliver safe, efficient and legal operations," said Dave Phatak, director of Ford Commercial Solutions, Europe. "That is why we are developing a range of connectivity-based solutions for our fleet customers to allow them to focus on what matters most: running their business."

Ford Telematics and Ford Data Services are the first new products from the FCS business in Europe, a unit within Ford Smart Mobility. They build upon Ford's new connected vehicle ecosystem – Ford vehicle connectivity technology, Ford Transportation Mobility Cloud and Ford mobility solutions – enabling them to benefit from Ford's continuous vehicle improvement, data know-how and expertise, and access to the latest data signals.

Insights from fleet owners, managers and employees across industries have helped to inform the new solutions. By placing its customers at the centre of the development process, Ford is helping fleet owners spend less time managing their vehicles and more time managing their business.

And, because Ford designs the vehicles – their technology, data systems and electrical architecture – it is able to provide the newest updates and vehicle signals as soon as they become available, delivering insights as quickly as customers need them.

Ford has already announced that, by 2020, it will provide connectivity across its entire vehicle range in Europe. Ford will launch Ford Telematics and Ford Data Services in Europe in the spring of 2019, arriving in the U.K. and Germany first with further markets to follow. Both services will be compatible with the latest range of Ford passenger cars and commercial vehicles, as well as older vehicles without a modem via a new Ford-engineered plug-in device (PID).

Ford Commercial Solutions has already established agreements with a number of telematics service providers in North America, including Verizon Connect, and is now in advanced stages of discussion to establish similar agreements in Europe.

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Triumphant European team after reclaiming the Ryder Cup in Paris at the weekend beating the US 17.5 -10.5

This is what it is all about – the Ryder Cup trophy

Peter Baker at the South Staffordshire Golf Club and, right, in 1993

Peter Baker on the 17th tee at the Forest of Arden

Ryder Cup memories burn bright for Baker

AS the victorious European team reclaimed the Ryder Cup in Paris at the weekend it brought back memories for someone closer to home.

The team wrapped up a 17.5-10.5 victory over the United States. And whenever the Ryder Cup rolls around, Peter Baker is reminded of 1993. "That was the highlight of my career," he smiles, 25 years later.

"I beat Corey Pavin in the singles, and beat Fred Couples and Paul Azinger in the four-ball with Woosy (Ian Woosnam).

"That was a big year. I won a couple of tournaments and played well in the Ryder Cup."

Baker was just 25 at the time and ranked 67 in the world. He was the second youngest golfer in the competition and the lowest-ranked player in the European team.

But even though Europe lost that year, Baker finished as one of their stars with three wins and one defeat. And to say he and Woosnam beat Couples and Azinger, who were ranked five and six in the world at the time, is somewhat of an understatement.

They demolished them to leave Europe one point ahead going into the singles.

Relaxed

But Baker, who grew up in Codsall and now lives '1,000 yards' from his old house in Tettenhall, is refusing to live on past glories. Having recently turned 50, the South Staffordshire Golf Club professional is enjoying a second career on the European Senior Tour.

"I'm enjoying the competition side of it," he said. "It's funny because I haven't done it for a while so I'm getting used to it again. It's nice to get another chance, in a way. It's a little bit more relaxed, but funnily enough I was leading the other week going into the last round and it felt weird.

"I felt a bit under pressure, a bit edgy. I thought 'bloody hell, I haven't done this for a while'. It's about getting used to that pressure. Hopefully I'll calm down a bit."

Senior Tours are serious business these days. Baker has watched one of his friends, Paul Broadhurst, from Walsall, win the 2016 Senior Open and this year's Senior PGA Championship. Broadhurst took home $585,000 for winning that second major and has made a staggering $1.1million so far this year across the pond on the PGA Champions Tour.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Wilson

"I'm enjoying the competition side of it. I haven't done it for a while so I'm getting used to it again"

Baker's winnings from the European Senior Tour are slightly more modest, but turning 50 can give golfers a second crack of the whip.

However, the 2006 Ryder Cup vice-captain is picking and choosing his battles these days.

"When I played on the main tour I did nearly 600 tournaments so I missed a lot of my kids growing up," he admitted. "I'd better make it up to them now. They are 25 and 26 so they're well on the way though."

"It's not just a case of dusting off the clubs and raking in the cash, because it takes more work getting back into shape once you're the other side of 50.

"This last year I've done a bit more gym work, more stretching work, trying to make myself more durable," he said. "I don't think there's a better exercise than swinging the club though.

"You can't quite go at it like you used to because you're in bits the next day. If you keep swinging it helps, rather than have a week off, because then you're stiff. It's hard work on the joints, you do get a bit sore.

"You get to know yourself a bit better. You're always looking to recover a bit better, ice baths, etc. And then if you've played well a nice cold beer, that's how we used to do it, nothing wrong with that. It's a bit of a rehydration!"

But life on Tour is not necessarily as glamorous as it appears.

"It's not so much the long days," he says. "It's the travelling and the hotels, they're all the same. It's different to going on holiday, any businessman will tell you that. The enjoyable bit is playing the golf obviously, getting out on the course and playing, you meet a lot of nice people, that's a plus.

"The travelling is the hard bit, week after week, hotels are hotels."

Baker is not really a man to complain too much. He has a ready smile and a warm chuckle, and when the conversation turns to his beloved Wolves side, he starts to really enjoy himself.

"I've been a season ticket holder since I was four," he boasts. "I used to go with my dad. Since then I've missed about four seasons, that's about it.

Improved

"Last season was brilliant. I didn't miss many games, but it's totally different to what we've ever had. It's exciting football, it's entertaining, they're organised, look like they know what they're doing.

"We tried to play a little bit like that with (Stale) Solbakken, and (Mark) McGhee, but you can't turn the players they had into playing that way.

"The players we've got now can play that way. The lads that Nuno has kept, like (Matt) Doherty, he can play that way and he's helped them, improved them."

So what does Baker, a season ticket holder at Molineux for more than 40 years, think of Wolves's controversial link with super-agent Jorge Mendes?

"My opinion on that is you've got to be with the best to be the best," he shrugs. "It's a bit like having the best golf coach, you want to learn from the best."

Miller time, unbeaten record put to the test

DUDLEY'S Josh Miller has no qualms in putting his fledgling unbeaten record on the line when he steps in with Ricky Hatton trained prospect Jake Haigh this month.

The 25-year-old super middleweight has racked up three consecutive wins since turning pro but puts his unbeaten streak on the line against Macclesfield's Haigh in Stoke on October 20. Miller and Haigh clash at the top of BCB promotions' 'Pride of the Potteries' show at King's Hall.

Miller said: "I'm excited. We are both undefeated and these are the fights that I want to be in to test my skills. I think it makes for a great fight."

Miller had 18 amateur fights and won a West Midlands title and a Central England Title before moving into the paid ranks. After making his ring return in July, he is eager to make up for lost time.

As well as Haigh versus Miller, Stoke boxers Nathan Heaney and debutant Cole Johnson are also in action alongside Wolverhampton's Conah Walker and Swadlincote's Midlands Area champion, Connor Parker.

Students get chance to learn art of boxing

WOLVERHAMPTON University students are being given the chance to train with professional boxers.

For just £3 a week, students enrolled at either the city or Walsall campus can train alongside professional fighters with Black Country Boxing (BCB) Promotions, including British champion Jason Welborn, of Rowley Regis and Wolverhampton duo Kyle Williams, an English champion, and 'Black Widow' Lauren Johnson, a former amateur champion turned professional

Fully qualified coaches will deliver the sessions at the BCB HQ in Wharfedale Street, Wednesbury. Johnson, a sports assistant & fitness instructor at the university, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for students to get fit and learn the art of boxing."

"We are looking forward to working with the students," said BCB's head trainer Paul Mann. Sessions take place from Monday to Friday, from 10am-noon and on Sunday mornings, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Email paul@bcb-promotions.com for more information.

Follow in Joshua's steps? Just Delicious

AN amateur boxer from Wolverhampton is hoping to follow in the footsteps of heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua.

Delicious Orie, a 21-year-old half-Russian, half-Nigerian, is a member of Jewellery Quarter Boxing Club, within Henrietta Street Gym, and juggles his fighting with studying economics and management at Aston University.

He has already trodden in Joshua's path, winning the 2018 Super-Heavyweight Elite Haringey Box Cup, Europe's biggest amateur tournament, which Joshua won in 2009 and 10. He has added the East Midlands Box Cup, and, with 18 wins from 20 bouts, Delicious has become British University champion in 2017 and 18 and England Boxing Development champion.

He said: "Joshua is a huge inspiration and role model for me. He's definitely paving the way for super heavyweights like me."

Jewellery Quarter Boxing Club head coach Mick Maguire said: Delicious' work ethic and talent continues to impress and his accomplishments speak for themselves."

Sport

Why Ryder Cup win brings back memories

Page 42

Heathens' rider Alfie misses out

CRADLEY'S National Trophy captain Alfie Bowtell was denied glory in the National League Riders' Championship at Leicester.

The 21-year-old finished on 14 points from his five programmes rides, level with Isle of Wight team-mate Ben Morley – who has also proved popular with Heathens fans in recent years.

The pair were locked in a thrilling run-off battle with Bowtell getting his nose in front as they entered the final lap.

But he then lifted and crashed out on bend two, gifting Morley the title.

Bowtell said after the Sunday evening clash: "I was a bit gutted to get beat by Ben earlier in the meeting because I thought that was going to cost me overall.

Stiff

"But I won all my other rides apart from that one and then Connor (Mountain) only got a third in his last ride so that meant it was me and Ben for a run-off.

"I felt like I could do it but I just lifted on that last lap after I'd got in front and that was my chance gone.

"I'm a bit stiff at the minute but I'm in one piece and that's all that matters.

"It would have been nice to win it but I'm still really happy with how the day went for me.

"I've really enjoyed my meetings with Cradley this season and I'm really thankful to them.

"There were loads of their supporters there cheering me on and it was a good feeling – it was just a shame I couldn't win it for them but I know they like Ben too so I'm sure they're not too disappointed!"

Kyle Bickley endured a tough afternoon amassing just four points while Drew Kemp withdrew following a crash in his second outing.

Stewart back in ring at town hall

OLDBURY fighter Ryan 'Stewart' Davies makes a quick return to the Walsall Town Hall ring this month on a 'spooktacular' night of professional boxing.

Davies beat Jamie Quinn over six rounds on September 22 and lines up again, alongside Dudley's Les Byfield, Danny Ball of Kingswinford, Brierley Hill's Connor Lee Jones and Central Area heavyweight champion Kash Ali, for the BCB Promotions bill on Saturday, October 27.

Troi Coleman fights again after his winning debut and English bantamweight champion Kyle Williams returns for an international eight-round contest.

Call 0845 111 2900 for tickets, £35 standard or £65 with buffet. Fancy dress is welcomed with a Halloween theme.

Grosvenor Casino Walsall will host the afters how party and weigh-in.

Wednesbury take rivals to cleaners

Wednesbury 95 Cannock 7

WEDNESBURY took local rivals Cannock to the cleaners, scoring 15 tries in what was the best performance from a Wednesbury team in a long time.

There was a minute's silence before the start of the game for long time member Mr Alan Robinson, who died recently.

After only ten minutes Wednesbury opened the scoring John McGregor racing through Cannock defence going over for the try, Matt Dale added the conversion. During the next five minutes the home side added another two tries both from Lee Allwood, Dale added one conversion. The tries came thick and fast, first from Aaron Harris, Dale added the conversion. Shortly after it was Dale's turn.

Then it was Allwood's turn again for his third try, Sean Bottomer added the extras. Wednesbury added another two tries within five minutes of the restart thanks to winger Rhys Nickle, no conversions. Then it was the turn of Stan Zvidi, Matt Dale added the conversion.

Captain Josh Harris got on the onto the sheet, again converted by Dale. Cannock went over on one of their rare sorties, and added the conversion.

Dave Hall scored for Wednesbury, no conversion. Three tries and a penalty try came in the last 10 minutes, through Steve Worthy, converted by Dale, who added the extra to his own try, then Nickel, again Dale kicked the extras.

The 2nds lost away to Walsall vets.Wednesbury 3rds drew at home to Bridgnorth 5ths 7-7, Wednesbury's points coming from a try by Dom Weathers and a conversion by Rob Dale.

BAGGIES BOSS: MORE TO COME

DARREN MOORE has warned the rest of the Championship there is more to come from his Albion side following their ascent to the top of the table.

And striker Jay Rodriguez reckons Moore's open door policy is getting the best out of his players.

The Baggies beat bottom club Preston North End 3-2 on Saturday to move into pole position of a tight division after 10 games.

Albion's reward for going top was nothing more than their usual bowl of pasta on the bus home from Deepdale, and Moore now wants his side to kick on from their recent run of form.

"I really do feel that there's more to come," he said. "More has to come. Together, collectively as a unit we'll keep working on that.

"We're good in possession but we can be even better on the ball, and can create more chances.

"We could get better off the ball, be more defensively sound, and our game management can improve. We want to get better."

Policy

Both Jay Rodriguez and Dwight Gayle scored again for Albion – along with a Ben Davies own goal – and together they already have 13 goals this season. And Rodriguez, who played with Moore at Barnsley in 2010, believes the boss's open door policy is getting the best out of his team.

Rodriguez says the 44-year-old has built up a strong relationship with his squad because he is honest with them.

"Everyone respects him as a manager and a person," said Rodriguez. "I played with him, I've known him for a long time.

"He's honest but he wants what everyone wants, which is to become better.

"That respect between people is massive in anything in life. You want to work and push each other to the maximum you can. We're going to need that and long may it continue."

Jay Rodriguez celebrates his goal as Albion go a goal up at Deepdale

Lloyd gears up for last race of season

WEDNESBURY'S Neil Lloyd, who has been without much luck mechanically this year, was in East Midlands Racing Association action, racing in the earlystock class on his Honda RVF.

He said: "We've not had the best of seasons and I spent a lot of time on the RVF during the run-up to Mallory but it paid off because the meeting was the first time I felt I'd raced properly on that bike."

After qualifying 13th of 27, he finished second in the first race. He switched to wet tyres for the next but with the track drying came 10th in the lightweight class due to a lack of grip.

All the remaining races took place in the dry and Lloyd, 48, brought his bike home ninth in the next earlystock race and 17th in the lightweight race.

He will compete in the final Darley Moor round this weekend, adding: "We had planned to run a team in the Jurby endurance race on the Isle of Man.

"We've been informed they've dropped the 400 class for safety reasons, so Darley may be our final race of the year."

Bacon keen on a return to the saddle

BIRMINGHAM skipper Tom Bacon says he won't let a broken back ruin his promising career.

The 25-year-old suffered a burst fracture of his L2 vertebrae while riding for the Edwards Plumbing Brummies in September – but is already talking about preparations for the 2019 season.

Now back at his Coventry home, Bacon has has revealed how much worse things could have been.

"Because of where I'd hurt myself the worry is always about your spinal cord," he said. "Thankfully I avoided that and this is something I'll be able to recover from.

"They're really pleased with how the operation went, I'm up walking fairly normally and things seem to be improving. I don't go back to the hospital until December now as it's all about letting the body heal.

"I've got four screws and two rods in my back holding everything in place and by that next appointment that should have allowed everything to heal and then it's all about working on my fitness and getting ready to race again."

Bacon hopes to be in attendance for the Brummies' final Perry Barr fixture of the season on October 17 (7.30). All Brummies' riders from throughout the campaign have been invited to attend.

Tickets will also be on sale for the End of Season Awards Night at Perry Barr Stadium on November 9 (7pm). Cost is £18, or £15 for season ticket holders, to include buffet and a raffle ticket.

Rogers happy at duo's progression

BIRMINGHAM boss Laurence Rogers believes the progression of the club's two reserves bodes well for the future.

Sheldon Davies represented Birmingham in the National League Riders' Championship on Sunday following the late withdrawal of Leon Flint. Meanwhile, Josh Embleton was crowned the Northern Junior League Champion on Saturday after going unbeaten from seven rides at Redcar.

Said Rogers: "I think they deserve a lot of credit. They've both shown glimpses of their potential along the way and I think it's been a good learning curve."

★★★

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